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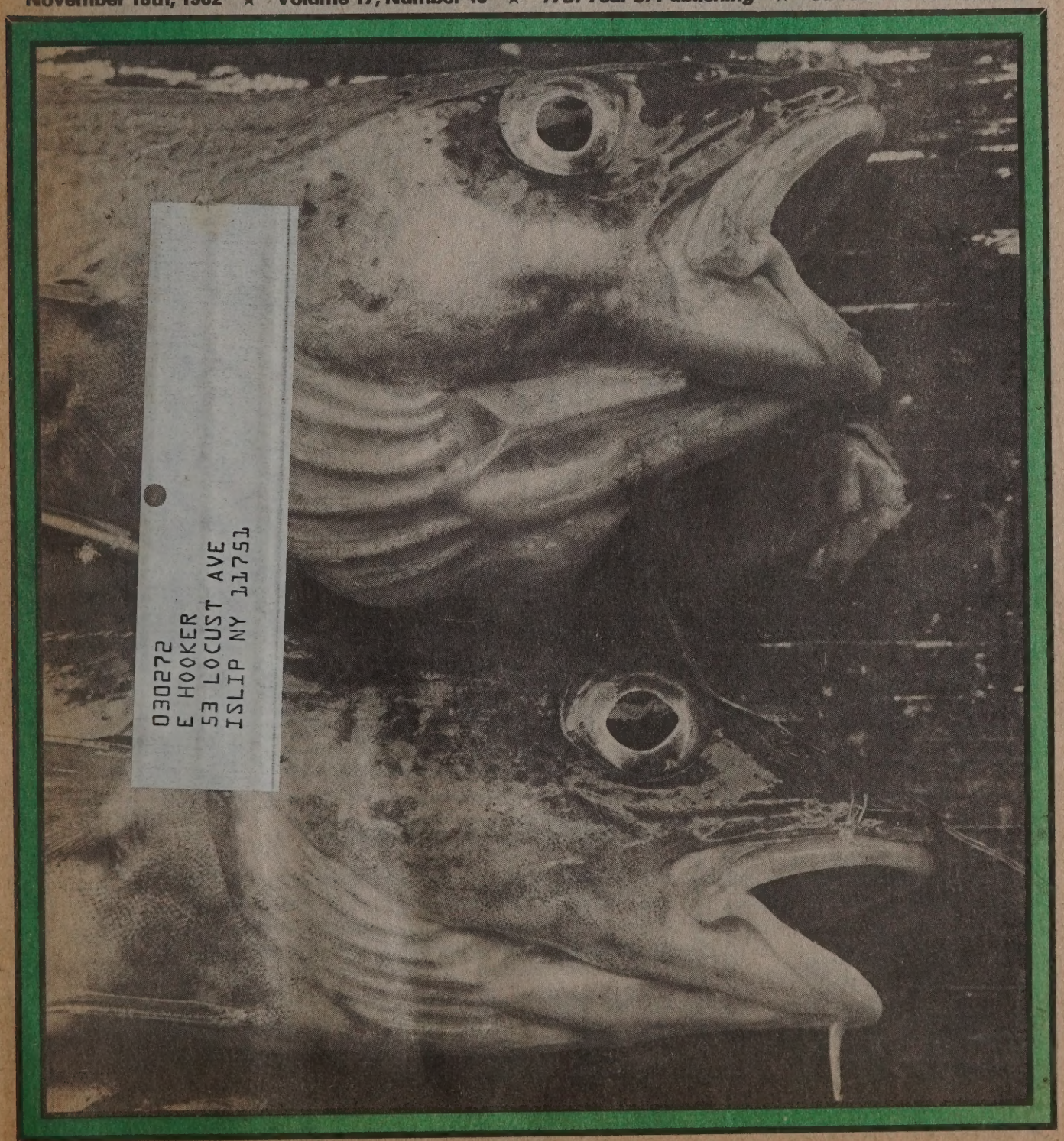

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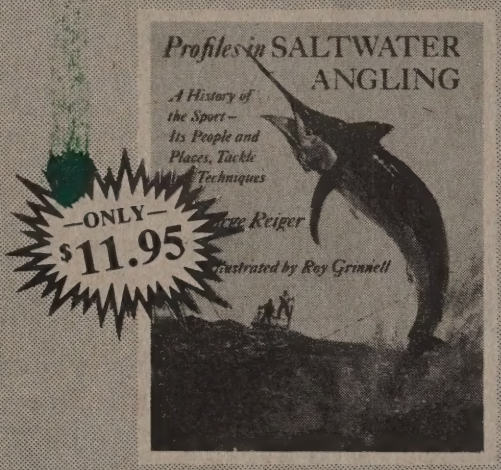
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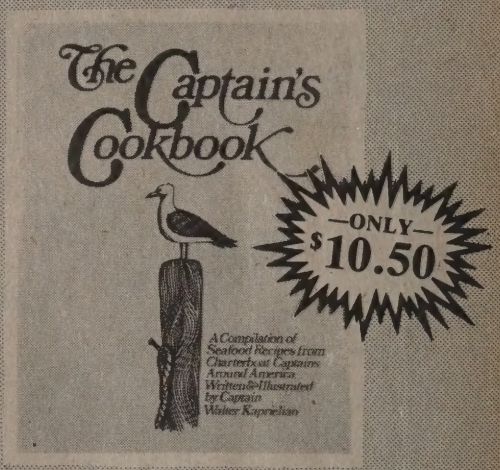
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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

Volume 17, Number 46 **November 18th, 1982**

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About the Cover—

South Shore codfishing is off to a good start if early reports are any indication. If you are planning on cashing in on this open bottom action, see "Doc" Grell's article on page 17. Cover photo by Tim Coleman.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **A FISHING MYSTERY**

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Pass It On...

FEDS DECISION ON CAMP HERO SERIOUS BLOW TO LONG ISLANDERS

During the week of November 8th, notification was received by the Town of East Hampton and the Long Island State Parks and Recreation Commission from the Federal Government indicating that permit applications for the Camp Hero property at Montauk have been denied to both the town and the commission. The Feds intention at this time is to sell the property at fair market value. More detailed information will be provided in upcoming issues of The Fisherman.

MANHATTAN BASED FISHING COURSE TO RUN FOR EIGHT WEEKS

Guy De Blasio and Al Ristori will be running their second Manhattan-based fishing course of the year each Tuesday through December 21. The eight-week course will provide inside information on various types of Metropolitan Area fishing from experts in each field.

Guy De Blasio will kick things off with a session on Hudson and East River fishing, at which time Byron Young of the NYS DEC will also discuss the biological aspects of this underexploited fishery. Following will be seminars with Capt. Kevin Bradshaw (Dorothy B) on party boat bottom fishing; Capt. Al Coley (Betty W) on party boat top-water fishing and jigging; Capt. Ronnie Lepper (Kim) on Metropolitan Area striper fishing; Al Ristori on offshore fishing: Ken Moran on local blues and weaks; John Lober on tackle; and Fred Golofaro on surf casting.

Classes will be limited to about 30 in order to provide a maximum of personal attention. Door prizes and various materials will be provided. The site is P.S. 41 at West 11th St., between 6th & 7th Avenues—and courses will run from 7:30 to 9:30 PM. The fee is $100 (kids half price) and checks should be sent to Guy De Blasio, 132 Thompson St., New York, NY 10012; (212) 473-5377.

COURSE ON NATURAL HISTORY OF FISHES

A special eight-part on the natural history of fishes will be held this winter in New York City on Monday evenings, beginning January 10, 1983.

Among the subject to be covered: fish evolution and taxonomy, anatony, physiology, sense perception, behavior, environment, feeding, reproduction, and migration, plus coverage of commercial fishing and finfish aquaculture.

Each evening will include a lecture with time for questions and informal discussion. The course is designed for anyone with an interest in fishes, from the science of their lives to the art of their pursuit.

The course is sponsored by the American Littoral Society, an organization interested in studies of the marine environment.

Among the lecturers will be Lance Grand, C. Lavett Smith, Peter Moller, Kathy Rankin, and James Atz, all from department of ichthyology, American Museum of Natural History; plus Joseph Rachlin, Lehman College; Phyllis Cahn, C.W. Post College; and Robert Valenti of Multi Aquaculture Systems on Long Island.

The courses run from 7:30-9:30 p.m. on Monday evenings, from early January through early March. All will be held in Greenwich Village, lowe Manhattan. The registration fee is $55 for the series. For information, write the American Littoral Society, Highlands, NJ 07732, or phone 201-291-0055. In New York phone 212-634-1465 evenings.

NEW ANTI-THEFT DEVICE FOR MERCRUISER STERN DRIVES

The growing problem of theft of stern drives, both in dry storage and in the water, is being attacked by a New Jersey company.

Owners of boats equipped with Mercruiser stern drives are now able to protect their units by an anti-theft device called the "Stern Drive Locak Adapter."

The problem stems from the fact that an accomplished thief can do his job in only a couple of minutes by removing certain easily accessible bolts. However, with Monarch's new device, it is nearly impossible. It locks in the upper corner of the stern drive after removing a nut and washer and inserting the adapter-lock on a stud with the flat side to the outdrive. The nut is then replaced and tightened with the lock inserted through the adapter.

The lock can be left on while the unit is on land or in storage, or in the water, where much of the theft now occurs.

The unit is made of "no-corrosive" stainless steel and comes in two sizes to fit most Mercruiser outdrives, including both the standard and "T.R.S." units. The device has a patent pending and retails for $59.95. It is from Monarch Moor Whips, P.O. Box 6, Normandy Beach, NJ 08739.

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The all-new Attwood Corporation catalog, featuring the finest in marine hardware and accessories, is now available.

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The Cardinal 752S and 753S lightweight spinning reels, featuring self-centering bails for quick and easy casting, are introduced by ABU-Garcia.

The new 752S Ultralight weighs just 6.7 ounces, and the 753S Light, just 7.8 ounces.

Both reels offer advanced features at a moderate price. In addition to a self-centering bail, which positions the line at fingertip length for accurate casts, the reels have a 700° Durasmooth rear-drag system. The Durasmooth system features numerical calibrations to allow quick changes, an audible click adjustment and twice the range of competitive rear-drag systems.

Both reels come with two push-button spools to permit quick, easy conversion from one weight line to another.

The Cardinal 752S and 753S also have a new whisper-silent anti-reverse, which reduces the number of clicks from 10 to four per rotation. Other features of the new reels are an automatic internal bail trip (with manual option) and time-phased spool oscillation, which stores the line in parallel rows for longer casts and greater line capacity.

For more information, write: ABU-Garcia, 21 Law Drive, Fairfield, New Jersey 07006.

BIANCHI, CONGRESSMAN BIAGGI CONFER ON 200-MILE TUNA LIMIT

Left to Right: Assemblyman Bianchi, Vic Rivas and Congressman Biaggi.

Assemblyman I.W. Bianchi, Jr. (D-Bellport) recently met with Congressman Mario Biaggi and Vic Rivas, President of the New York Sport Fishing Federation, concerning pending legislation in Washington to limit foreign fishing fleets. Congressman Biaggi is Chairman of the House Committee which has responsibility for the control of foreign fishing in coastal waters. Fleets are now prohibited from all fishing, except for tuna, within 200 miles of the U.S.

The meeting, which was held in Biaggi's District Office in the Bronx, also included discussion of the Dingle/Johnson funds, which have not been shared with salt-water recreation fishermen, and also weather forecasting for Middle and Eastern Long Island by the National Weather Service.

Bianchi and Rivas praised Biaggi for considering the viewpoints of the New York Sport Fishing Federation, which has over 32,000 members, and Biaggi, in turn, pledged to do what he could to assist recreational sport fishing.

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WHERE WILL ICCAT LEAD US IN 1983?

Part Three—*by Al Ristori*

The last of a three part series offers some insight into what's down the road in the way of bluefin tuna regulations.

The October 5-6 meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) advisors in Washington, D.C. left the commissioners with some advice that will be hard to translate into action at the fall meeting of the international body in Madeira. Basically, most of the advisors wanted bigger bluefin tuna quotas from a stock which the government says has not improved. The "simple" solution, therefore, is to try to take additional quota from the Japanese share.

Unfortunately, that's not as easy as it might sound. Since we have not been able to overcome West Coast tuna industry opposition to including tunas (or even just the Atlantic bluefin tuna) in the 200-mile limit, agreements with the Japanese (or any other foreign country that might decide to fish for tunas off our coasts) must be negotiated. Little progress was made until the ICCAT scientific committee examined the figures last fall and found that bluefin stocks in the western Atlantic were so low that fishing should have really been stopped. Eventually, the Japanese and Canadians went along with a conservation scheme—but only after the quota had been doubled so everyone could get a bigger piece of the action.

The Japanese took the biggest beating, getting only 305 metric tons as by-catch in their North Atlantic winter bigeye fishery—and giving up their Gulf of Mexico winter giant tuna catches. It's unrealistic to assume that the Japanese will allow themselves to be cut any further, especially if the U.S. doesn't take a similar cut. In addition, the North Atlantic winter fishery is conducted largely in waters controlled by Canada—or in international waters. Therefore, this fishery may be largely beyond our control in any case.

The basis for seeking a greater share in this manner is the Law of the Sea Conference-approval coastal state preference concept. Even in the case of a migratory species, the coastal state should get preference in its harvest when it's within range. While that's all well and good in theory, the Japanese will argue that they're only getting by-catch in another fishery in any case.

It's impossible at this time to forecast what will come out of the ICCAT scientific committee deliberations. No one was ready for the sudden recommendation last year that bluefin tuna catches be stopped in the western Atlantic. Our delegation is going in with a negative report (no good news on recruitment and a likely negative surplus production for next year), and unless there is a change in that situation it would be difficult to call for a bigger quota.

However, I was surprised at the broad range of support for a coastal state preference position. The West Coast tuna interests didn't oppose it, and the commercial National Fisheries Institute actually spoke in favor of it. The American Tuna Action Committee couldn't even get an argument against their position in favor of coastal state preference, and Dept. of Commerce international fishery negotiator Carmen Blondin said he assumed that would once again be our delegation's position.

The best guess at this time would be that there will be little or no change in either the ICCAT quota or the manner of distribution between nations. Furthermore, Al Peterson, director of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northeast Region office in Gloucester, is satisfied with the way things went this year and would like to continue the regulations as is. I expressed deep concern about the fact that the system didn't work insofar as giving the anglers to the west a shot at the tuna. Though it was assumed that the one giant per-week-per-boat regulation would spread the catch out and permit a long season, that just didn't work out. There were rumors of considerable shenanigans in the Gloucester area. The word was that the same boats were catching fish after fish each week and assigning them to licenses held for various other boats that weren't used. I also heard of transfer between boats at sea, and the fact that NMFS backed down and permitted buy boats to operate made cheating much easier. To prove it wasn't all rumor, NMFS nailed a Gloucester charter boat which was tying giants to their anchor line for other boats to pick up.

Even if everything is on the up and up, it would be hard to spread the resource around. There are 10,292 boat permits in the general category and the quota consists of only about 1,000 fish at this year's sizes. Al Peterson wasn't upset at the early closure which shut off the western fishing just as it was getting started for a number of reasons. The most important is the Gloucester orientation. Up there the Mud Hole fishery is not regarded as a serious one. Better yet, it's a long way from the office—and the shouting hardly carries! Al also pointed out that the Metropolitan Area anglers frequently have their boats in Gloucester or at Montauk, and it's hard to convince him that those boats represent only a very small minority of those who would fish giants nearer home. He further notes that the school tuna quota wasn't touched, and that's of benefit to Metropolitan fishermen—rather than those to the north.

Of course, the school tuna run was a failure locally this year—and that's been basically the case since the unusual October-November 1979 Mud Hole run. Furthermore, Peterson had tried to drop the school tuna catch per man from four to two; but it was left as is because that's what the scientists had called for in accordance with the ICCAT monitoring system. Al also noted that the closure didn't stop fishing in the Mud Hole, it just prohibited the keeping of giant tuna. That's a fine sounding argument, but it doesn't make it any fairer that fishermen to the north and east have plenty of opportunity to catch giants that are worth a great deal of money, while those to the west and south aren't accorded that privilege. At the public hearing this spring there was a 26 short ton reserve mentioned which was supposed to be for the southern area. It later turned out that it wasn't just for the south, but was to be used after September 15. However, that reserve was used early since the fish were still hitting at Block Island—and anything south of Cape Cod is the same as far as the Gloucester office is concerned.

The division of a small pie is a very difficult job, and I can't fault the NMFS Northeast office for anything but the giant tuna giveaway to the

purse seiners. After all, no one could say in advance how the one giant per-boat-per-week limit was going to work out. In addition, good fishing east of Block Island started about one week earlier than it did last year. However, we can insist that they learn from what happened this year and make appropriate changes to create a fairer situation in 1983.

If New Jersey and western Long Island anglers and captains want to get some fishing in the Mud Hole next year they'd better start demanding it right away. There's obviously no likelihood of any change from Gloucester unless enormous pressure is brought to bear. Even a small reserve for the area would be helpful. If NMFS didn't do anything special for other groups, it might be hard to ask for this, but they set up a honey of a deal for the harpooners this year—and gave the purse seiners about 1,000 giants that they never had any business taking.

If we can't get a mechanism to ensure a later season, how about a later start to the season? That could be July 15, or preferably August 1. That way the northern boats can get to tag fish for awhile! It would also be advisable to once again push for a rod and reel only regulation in the southern area. Only the one fish per-boat-per-week rule kept northern handliners from Block Island this year, and that may not last forever. As rod and reel is the only "traditional" gear used in that area, there's a good case for restricting a limited fishery.

Most importantly, we should insist that there be no directed purse seine tuna fishery. A realistically small by-catch for skipjack fishing is okay, but the sham of giving them a huge directed quota in violation of the letter and spirit of the ICCAT agreement has got to end. If those extra thousand small giants could have been taken this year, they should have gone to the handgear people—and there would have been no closed season at all.

Despite all the problems, we probably did buy some time for the bluefin tuna this year. The cessation of purse seining on the small fish and of the Japanese effort on the spawners overshadows all the difficulties with quotas and limits. The loss of the giant tuna season in the Mud Hole was a disappointment, and the purse seine slaughter of small giants was a senseless tragedy. However, the overall picture still reflected a big leap forward in terms of conservation. Government statistics indicate that we haven't gone far enough so far, but at least we're finally tackling the problem. Once the ICCAT decisions are before us, then it will be necessary to see that the inequities of the present system are corrected. However, don't expect that to happen by itself. If it isn't important enough for those involved to put the heat on Gloucester, then you can expect the same thing to happen again next year!

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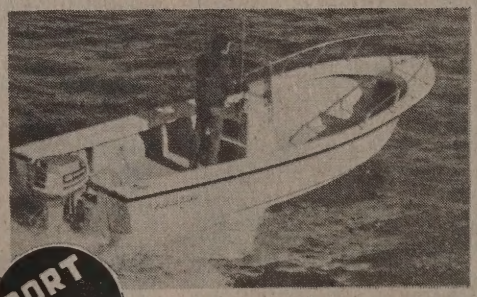

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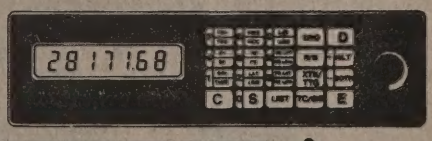

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THE ONE ROD SYNDROME: ONE IS NOT ENOUGH!

by Ferd DiPalma

We were jigging small bluefish, two to three-and-half pound scrappers on that fine summer day. Most of us had trotted out the light spinners, whippy little rods mounted with reels of the heavy freshwater/light salt water variety. There were some six foot light action boat rods that held revolving spool reels, levelwinds and casting types. All in all, judging from the reports of the past several days, there seemed little likelihood that we would encounter any so-called alligators.

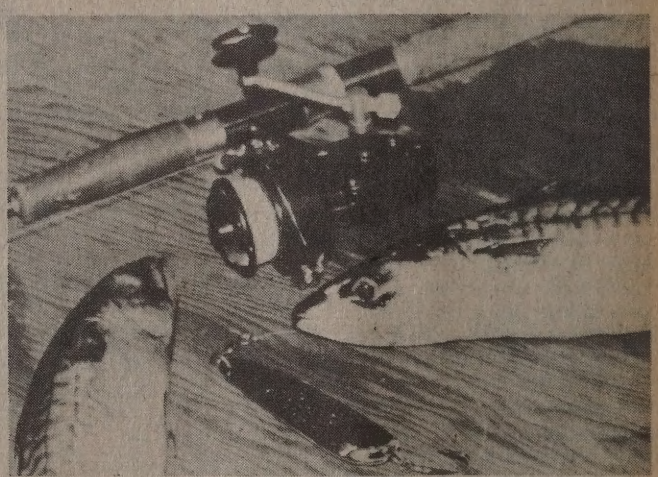
That is why I questioned the two young fellows fishing at the stern rail. Both were using identical outfits. Seven-and-a-half foot long heavy duty rods capable of horsing in a 40 lb. bluefin tuna. The reels, equal to the 4/0 size held, one of them admitted, 40 pound test mono line. One of the two misunderstood my inquiry. "Ain't these outfits beauties?" he remarked. "They're all purpose outfits! We use them for everything. Bottom fish, fluke, blues. And these rods are strong enough to bring in a real heavyweight—cod or tilefish—if we ever get to go for them," he added.

If we ever get to go for them! That about sums up the problem confronting the one-rod fisherman. He may purchase a heavy duty outfit just in case he ever gets to an offshore wreck where the chance of latching on to a giant codfish is still minimal. And he may never get to the continental shelf for the deep water, 30 pound tilefish which justify—no, mandate the use of heavy equipment.

Meanwhile, the one rod types lose out on a great deal of fun, recreation and sport because they equipped for fish which they rarely, if ever, see and employ these "poles" on the likes of sea bass and fluke. Ling, whiting, and yes, even some tough nice sized bluefish.

I couldn't fault the young fellows though. I was faked out in much the same fashion when I bought my first saltwater outfit when I was still in

PHOTO ONE



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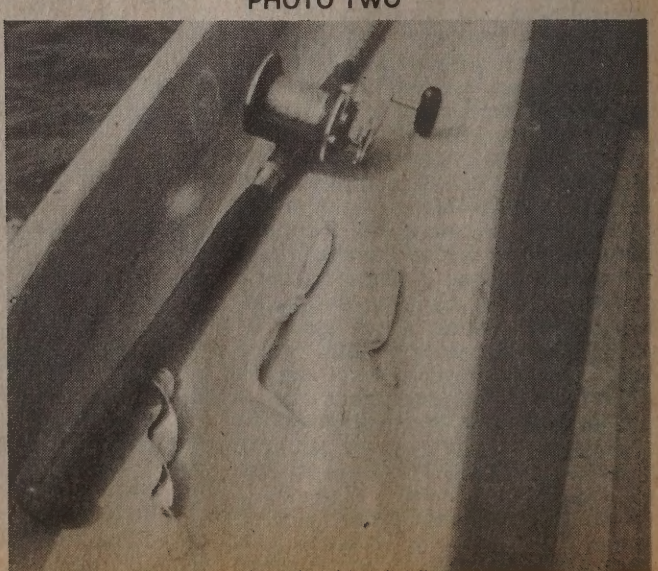

PHOTO THREE

high school. I had obtained a summer job in one of Newark's major department stores. As an employee I was entitled to a discount. Most of my first week's pay went for a beautiful rod and reel. Fifteen dollars bought a lot in those days. The salesman in the sport department (no fisherman) told me it was a junior surf rod, seven feet nine inches of beautifully shellacked, highly varnished split bamboo. "Just the ticket," he said, "for just about anything that swims in salt water." That rod could have served as a mast for little "Tinkerbelle" on one of that celebrated vessel's historic voyages. "This rod," the salesman continued, "can be used wherever you want to fish—jetty, beach, pier or boat. With the Pflueger 'Ohio' reel and 12 thread linen line (36 pound test), you will never need another outfit."

You live, you learn! After a few years of using that "stick," I finally retired the weapon as the decade of the Fifties brought forth so many of the refinements that we now take for granted—spinning techniques, Fiberglas and graphite rods, monofilament lines and well engineered casting reels.

The all purpose rod and reel, spinning or conventional, simply does not exist. Today's anglers have available and ready to hand a bewildering array of specialized equipment. Depending on the quarry sought, today's saltwater angler is not at all averse to raiding the arsenals of the freshwater addicts and using the relatively light equipment in river, bay and ocean. Some idea of the kind of tackle frequently seen on today's party vessels may be had from the captioned photos:

Photo One: Winter Flounder—River and Bay: A 5' ultra-light freshwater rod mounted with a freshwater spinning reel spooled with six pound test line. Used with a one-half to one-and-a-half ounce sinker such an outfit is quite capable of taking double-headers.

Photo Two: Mackerel—a 6½' medium action freshwater rod also combined with a freshwater spinning reel. Line is now 8 or 10 pound test. A one to two ounce metal lure with treble hook. Also okay for a two hook flounder rig, but no teasers for the mackerel. Not recommended for the meat or bait fishermen.

Photo Three: The regular medium action 6½' boat rod can be used for any type bottom fishing. Mounted with a fast retrieve reel such as the Penn 500M Jigmaster or Daiwa Sealine 50H, this outfit can handle the largest of bluefish. Twenty or thirty pound test line is adequate.

Photo Four: For large weakfish, small bluefish or school stripers, a 7' or 7½' spinning rod such as the Shakespeare Ugly Stik or Browning Silaflex calibrated for line in the 8 to 15 or 10 to 20 lb. class would be just fine. Reels such as the Penn 710 or Daiwa 2600C series make for a well balanced outfit. Similar popping rods will do the same job. Use a Penn #9 reel or, if price is no object, a Shimano Triton Mark I or II.

Photo Five: Tilefish, cod and pollack—Here the heavy duty rod is justified. A 6' or 6½' rod mounted with a Penn 4-0 Senator or similar type reel that can hold at least 400 yards of 30 or 40 pound test line. The outfit must be capable of handling sinkers of three and sometimes more pounds. Jigging with 14 or 16 ounce diamond jigs is the rule rather than the exception.

Photo Six: Trolling the "little" tunas, "footballs" and large bluefish—an old Harnell rod, refinished with an Aftco roller tiptop. The Penn 4-0 Senator and 30 pound test line. Will take all of the above-named gamesters on cedar plugs, metal squids, Japanese feathers or plastic-skirted trolling lures.

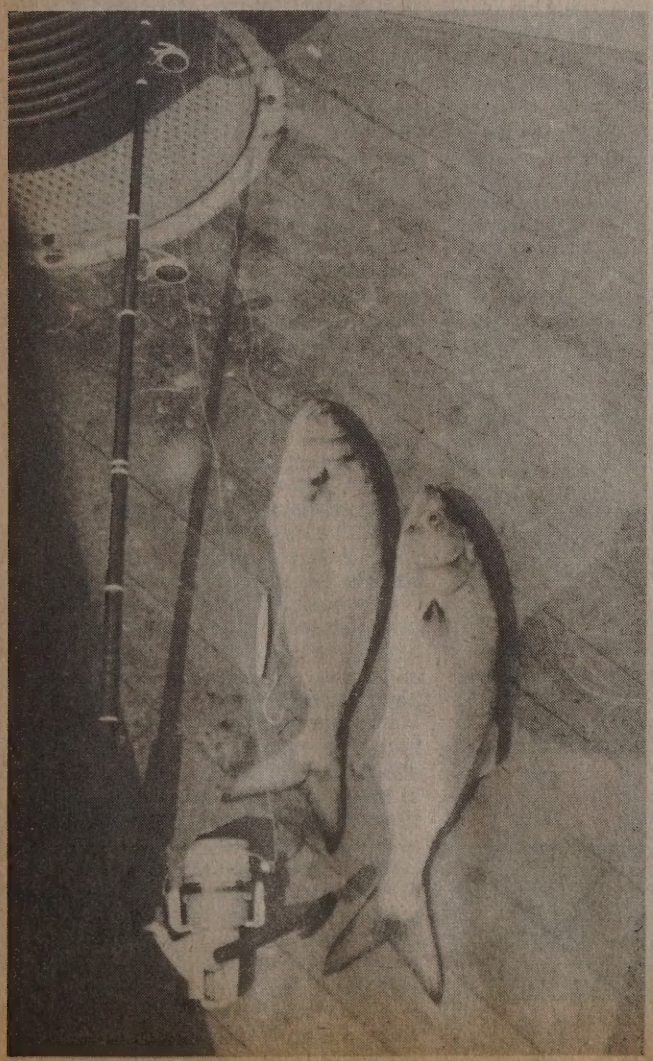

PHOTO FOUR

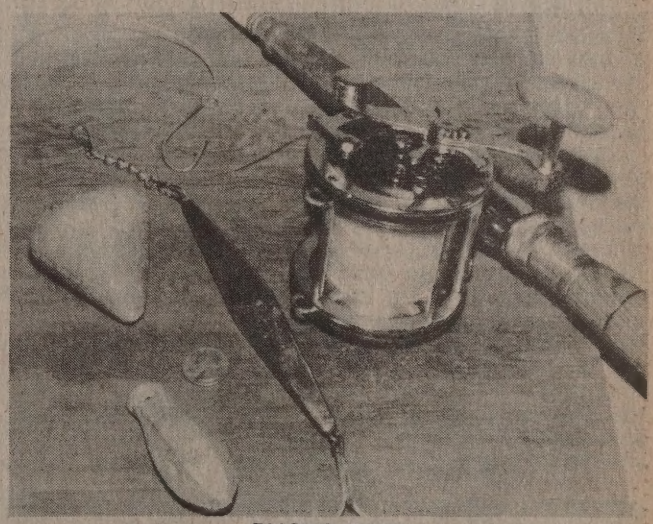

PHOTO FIVE

PHOTO SIX

TAKING STOCK

by D.W. Anthony

Since our memories have a way of deceiving us, now is the time for surfmen to file away this past seasons vital info

There are still some bass and maybe even a few blues to be drilled out of the surf, but realistically speaking, the season is behind us. For many of us, the long months of hard work that has given us so much enjoyment now wane into a longing for rest. True, this desire for the warmth and comfort of family and living room likely won't last beyond New Year's Day, but for the time being there is comfort in knowing that you won't have to catch a tide for a few months.

Without a doubt it is a very good time to clean those reels and take the dirt and salt away from tackle before corrosion sets in, but if you're at all like me this activity can be somewhat unsatisfactory at this time of the year. However, there is an alternative: an activity that keeps you a little closer to the essence of fishing the surf without the hassle of the necessary, but saddening fall clean up.

Each late fall, therefore, I try to spend a few weeks taking stock. I learned a long time ago that my memory is my least reliable friend and once I got deeply involved in surf fishing I started to keep a very accurate log. Now log styles differ quite a bit and many approaches have been discussed by a variety of authors in The Long Island Fisherman. Therefore, I'll not repeat all that. Yet, the question remains: What do I do with all that information? Clearly, one use of the log is to check on a spot at a particular time of the year. Selecting your fishing spot according to historical productivity is one way to cut down on the odds against you. Yet even this is not the topic of this discussion.

For me taking stock has quite a different meaning. I want to have some measure of how good or bad the season was for me. The conclusions that I draw may or may not be applicable to surf fishing in general on Long Island, but this information will be helpful to me. Why? Although certain spots produce year after year, there are also changes that take place; not one-year transitions, but permanent changes due to the destruction of a bar, cut, or rip or the creation of a new productive spot. Sometimes the change need not be so physical or so dramatic. Changes in the type of bait that dominates can cause a shift in productive fishing sites because what's home for one bait may be alien to another. These latter changes are less permanent than the destruction of beach structure, but nonetheless the alteration in fishing patterns may last for up to a decade or so. That's long enough so that one forgets and the memory becomes so slippery that it can lose its reality. The shift from spearing and small bunker to sand eels is a case in point. The sand eels have been dominant now for almost a decade. The abundance of this species of bait has opened up new fishing areas and rendered once productive spots dry temporarily. Eventually the sand eels will become less abundant, but will we remember how we did it 10 or 15 years ago and if we remember, how well will we remember.

Putting it down in black and white, day after day, month after month, year after year means that you can fall back on this information at some future time for accuracy instead of trusting that elusive memory. That logic explains why I keep my log a little differently than many surf fishermen. Many logs are drawn with columns and the typical entries include wind, tide moon phase, water temperature, etc. In other words, very pragmatic data about specific physical, meteorological, and climate data. This kind of information is very useful and I do makes notes about important conditions where I believe they have been relevant to the fishing or the lack of fishing. However, over the years I have decided that for my purposes, and these may not suit the needs of others, I want information about how I fished a spot and why I fished a spot at the time. I also want to note how many hours I fished and I usually finish up with a map of that spot. I include comments about what I caught in a place this year, then I go back to my comments of previous years to see if I did better, worse, or about the same. If it is a new spot, then I want to record my first impressions and any questions that I may have. Usually, my first year at a spot I don't produce significant catches but many questions occur to me as well as ideas how to improve the catch there next year. I want these first and perhaps best thoughts about an area on paper so I review these before going back.

If a spot I am familiar with changes, I draw a new map and make notes about how the new shape or depth has affected currents and wave action. Even if the fishing has turned terrible in the spot because the structure has been altered, the information may be useful. For example, suppose the structure resumes its normal shape after a few years, or suppose that it almost renews its old shape after a few years. Thoughts at the time when it was destroyed compared to observations before the change and observations during the renewal may give great insight into why the place

YEAR	BASS	BLUES	WEAKS	TOTAL FISH
1980	20	42	37	99
1981	21	48	49	118
YEAR	**BASS HOURS**	**BLUES HOURS**	**WEAK HOURS**	**TOTAL HOURS**
1980	70	60	40	170
1981	85	75	60	230
CATCH PER UNIT EFFORT (C.P.U.E.)				
YEAR	**BASS**	**BLUES**	**WEAKS**	**TOTAL C.P.U.E.**
1980	0.28	0.70	0.92	0.58
1981	0.24	0.64	0.81	0.51

produces. I recall one situation like this. For years fishermen regular to the spot were convinced it produced for one reason. Then a big storm changed the place and there were very few fish. Over the next five years, the spot gradually resumed its previous structure. When it was halfway back the fish returned but the structure we thought was responsible for attracting and holding the fish did not return for several more years.

Another means of taking stock is to compare the number of fish caught with the number of hours fished. Fisheries biologists call this the catch per unit effort and it is a standard measure for scientists. Scientists believe, and perhaps with some justification, that total catch alone can be misleading because technology and the number of fishermen fishing changes from year to year. However, if you reduce the data to catch per unit effort you have a universal yardstick for assessing productivity. For example, let's suppose that a look at a fellow surf fisherman's log showed the following catch data for 1980 and 1981. See Table I.

Okay, without a catch per unit effort statistic we would conclude that this fellow had a better year in 1981 than in 1980. However, if he kept a log of his hours we might get a different perspective. See Table II.

These data mean that in 1908 our fisherman caught 0.58 fish per hour of effort and in 1981 that dropped to 0.51 fish per hour. This change is subtle and because our friend caught more fish in 1981 than in 1980 he might be very eager to conclude that he had a better season. Other subtle differences from year to year cause us to come to inaccurate conclusions. For example, if a surf fisherman has an excellent early part of the season and then the number of fish taper off, there is a tendency to conclude that the season wasn't so good even though so many fish were caught early that the overall production still remains high. Conversely, if the season ends with a flourish our angler might decide it was a terrific year. The size of the fish you catch can also influence your impressions. If we caught several notable fish and these burn in our memory we may conclude the season better than many others. Also our experiences influence our conclusions. A run of fish that was predictable for several weeks and enjoyed by a group of friends can leave very pleasant and important impressions. These impressions may overshadow other and perhaps more practical considerations as the season comes to a close. Therefore, it helps to have the information so that real comparisons can be made.

One last thought. I have this one friend who throws up his hands in disgust over my approach. He insists that he doesn't really want to know the truth. His memories, he says, however inaccurate, are what he wants to live with. Who knows, maybe he has the right idea?

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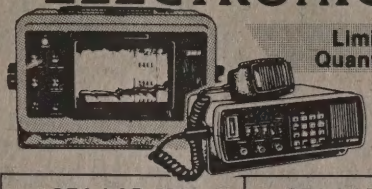

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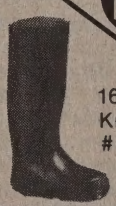

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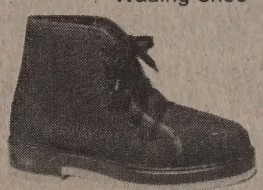

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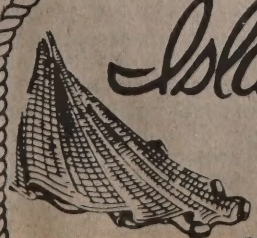

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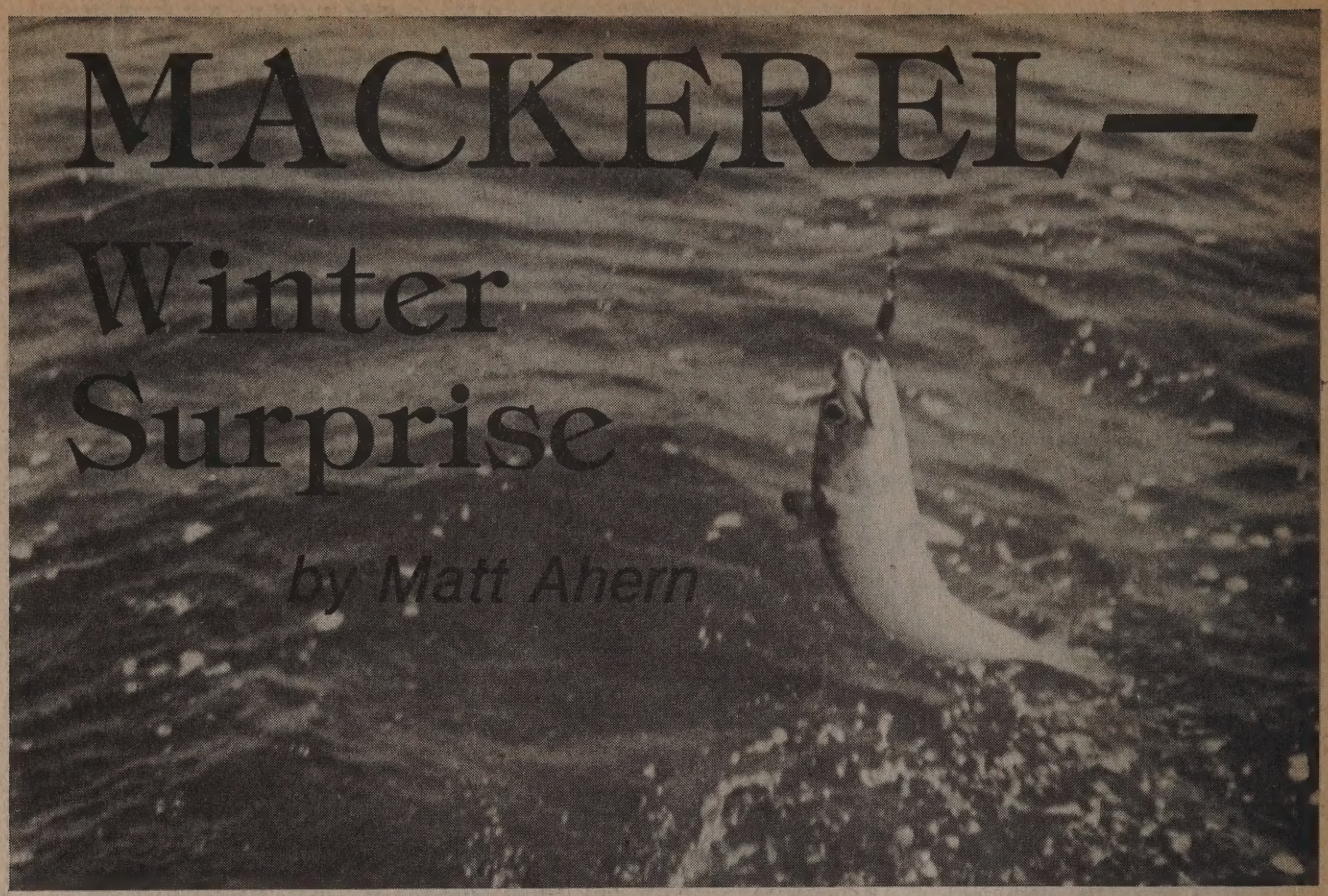
MACKEREL— Winter Surprise

by Matt Ahern



I guess you might say I'm slow on the draw. Until 20 years ago I didn't know mackerel could be caught during winter. So, you see, being from the old school can have its disadvantages.

Oh sure, while codfishing over the years I'd caught an occasional mackerel on skimmer bait, and even on a bare hook, but the thought never occurred to me that enough mackerel were around to make fishing for them worthwhile. Yup—slow on the draw, that's me.

The discovery of good winter mackerel fishing began in all innocence.

One Friday evening in late November, 1962, my phone rang. The call was from an Island Park charter boat skipper. "Marty, can you help me out? My mate came down sick and I've got a 20 man cod charter in the morning. I'm desperate. Can you give me a hand?" Sure—why not. Always help the other guy when you can.

I arrived at the dock in plenty of time, got everything as shipshape as possible, and awaited the skipper's arrival. I was just about to relax when he stepped aboard and explained the day's plan to me. "I'll be working the Southeast Grounds this morning—it's the only place holding a few cod right now. We'll have to chum heavily, so put on eight bags of skimmer from the cooler, then grab that last can of bunker chum from the freezer. The way fishing's been lately, we might need it."

Well, taking along bunker chum when codfishing was something new to me, but I said nothing. One thing a mate learns all too soon is not to question the skipper. Especially one he doesn't know too well.

The skipper knew his codfishing, no question about that, but all his finesse availed him naught. I tossed the chum to the fish, but nothing helped to get them started. Either those cod weren't there, or they weren't in a biting mood. Our charter had perhaps a half-dozen medium sized cod on board by noontime—a large disappointment for everyone. We had even tried drifting; but nothing produced fish. One of those days all dedicated codfishermen are familiar with.

"Okay, fellers," the skipper said. "We've got to bring fish home, but it looks like the cod have had it for today. So, if it's okay with you guys, here's what we'll do. There's mackerel down there, plenty of them by the amount of birds I see working, so you fellers who want mackerel, fish up near the bow; you fellers who want to stick with the cod, fish the stern. I've got diamond jigs, mackerel trees, whatever you want. I think t' [illegible] what we ought to do. But it's up to you guys. Stick with the crummy codfishing, or try for mackerel which I'm sure we'll catch."

I guess the charter was divided 50-50, but we soon got ourselves squared away. The die-hard codfishermen fished from the stern while I mixed the bunker chum with sea water for a half-dozen or so converted mackerel fishermen and began to ladle it off the bow into the tide.

It didn't take long. Within minutes mackerel were flying over the rail. It was the common leap job one ordinarily expects to see in springtime, only now it was happening six months later. I was certainly surprised at the action, which only goes to show how much I know about fishing. Well—you live, and you learn.

It is common knowledge that Long Island's fall-winter mackerel season rarely attains the notoriety or popularity of the spring run. This is to be expected, for most wintertime fishermen have their eyes on cod (I ought to know). But mackerel are caught each fall along our south shore coast as the return run is made to their wintering grounds off the Virginia Capes.

It may be too that this lack of interest in winter mackerel action lies in the fact that, when compared to spring fishing, mackerel do not linger long in any given area. A two-week stay is average (sometimes it is shorter), but there have been seasons when good fishing was available all winter.

Whether a lengthy stay occurs because these mackerel schools are sometimes abnormally large so that they take several months to pass by, or whether ideal water temperatures, plus excellent feeding conditions place a brake on the migration, is unknown. I believe, though, that it is water temperature which is the deciding factor. You will find when codfishing is late getting into high gear, fall mackerel fishing is good.

These late mackerel have fed well all summer long off the coasts of Marine and Nova Scotia and therefore are quite likely to be husky. The exact location of this summering ground is

pure conjecture, but with the first breath of impending winter, mackerel rise from the depths and begin the long trek southward, following the same path used in their springtime spawning run.

Therefore, any time you plan a fall or winter cod trip aboard a party boat, it is a good idea to pack a couple two to four ounce diamond jigs with your gear. It certainly won't hurt to use one whenever the cod slow down. Not only might you save your day, but never lose sight of the fact that cod dote on diamond jigs in a big way. I've caught cod on these lures more than once, although for all-around codfishing, an eight ounce jig is generally better. There's nothing that says you can't also pack one of these heavier lures and give it a try.

Although the codfisherman aboard a party boat is limited in his quest for mackerel unless chum is used, those fishing aboard private craft have it made. They can always carry a can of mossbunker chum and devote some part of the day, or all of it, to mackerel fishing.

Tackle is no problem.

Any medium weight boat rod and matching conventional reel filled with 30 pound test monofilament is okay. Twenty pound is better, but as the chances of latching onto a hefty cod is always possible should you be flashing a jig close to the bottom, it is better to use the heavier stuff. The lighter line is best used in spring, or if you know for certain that the mackerel are close to the surface. Forget spinning outfits—unless you're just out for mackerel.

It is always best to attach your jig directly to the main line with an Improved Clinch Knot. True, snap swivels make rigging easier and faster, but unless they are of a dull color, you will find a good percentage of mackerel attracted to them. A minor thing perhaps when mackerel are seizing anything that moves, but I always like to have everything going for me. I believe, too, that those fishermen who use clinch knots instead of snap swivels will catch more mackerel. I think snap swivels will cut down the action of any artificial lure.

If you lack a mackerel tree, you can easily make one. Simply use several unsnelled tinned or cadmium-plated O'Shaughnessy hooks, 3/0 in size. Actually any tinned hook in the proper size will work for this fishing, but I lean to the O'Shaughnessy pattern for no particular reason of which I am aware. Habit, I guess.

Use a four foot length of 30 pound mono and stagger a series of three inch double overhand loops about six inches apart along its length. I would say three loops plus the diamond jig are plenty. Attach this to your main line (no snap swivels, please), and then add the diamond jig with an Improved Clinch Knot.

Attach each hook to the leader by running the loop through the hook's eye, then over the hook. Draw up snug against the eye and shank. The loops act as snells and are stiff enough to hold the baitless hooks out from the main line.

That's all you need. Mackerel have no qualms about striking bare hooks—as long as they are bright. If it is necessary to use bronzed or other dull-finished hooks, cover the shank with aluminum foil. Some fellows use a narrow strip of mackerel on each hook as an added enticer.

Bunker chum should always be mixed with sea water. What is needed is a thin-soup consistency. It is then ladled over the side into the tide, about a pint at a time. There is more to this mackerel chumming than meets the eye. I find the best way is to ladle a half-dozen scoops of the goo out about 10 feet. Then add two or three extra scoops directly alongside and begin fishing. The chum line should be replenished every few minutes, using no more than a scoop or two until the fish respond.

When the fish begin feeding, the action is always hot and heavy; therefore, someone should be assigned beforehand to sweeten the chum line occasionally. This is important. If too long an interval of time between scoops is allowed, the fish will seek greener pastures. Then, it is either a case of sweating out another school with some heavy chumming, or moving off to locate another. It is always best to do it right the first time.

While I find the best way to catch mackerel is to anchor up in water from 60 to 90 feet deep and get the chum going, this isn't the only method used with success. If the day isn't blustery, which makes for poor drifting conditions, the fisherman should do just that—drift.

Each fisherman should decide beforehand at what depth he expects to flash his jig. When the first fish is hooked, someone should quickly note the depth by marking the lucky fisherman's line with a daub of quick-drying marker ink. This is the depth at which the fish are feeding and most will be caught at this level.

Trolling sometimes works, but this is a more difficult procedure as the jigs used are heavier (eight ounces or more) and boat speed must be precise to always arrive at the correct depth. This takes experience. I think the best bet is to anchor and chum. Or lacking chum, drifting should be considered.

Such areas as the Cholera Banks and the Southeast Grounds are potential fall/winter mackerel spots. But any area having 60 to 90 feet of water should be considered worthwhile. Inshore shallow water areas are not too good at this time of year. Nor is fishing over wrecks, unless they are in deep water.

Expect mackerel any time during the last three weeks of November. Let's hope the codfishing is such this winter that mackerel will be of little interest until spring. But on days when the pick is slow, these scrappers are something to keep in mind.

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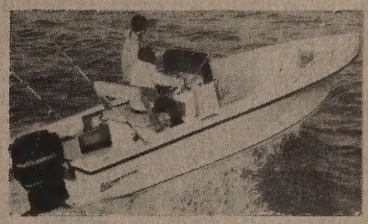
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A TREATISE ON FISH NOMENCLATURE

Part Two—*by Sal Terranova*

Last week, in Part One of this article, we went through a species-by-species rundown on all the various proper names and terms indicating size and habitat by which our most popular bottom fish are known. This week, we will give the same treatment, species by species, to all of our popular game fish.

It goes without saying that bluefish are the game fish that are caught in the greatest numbers by local anglers. Therefore, it stands to reason that such popularity would result in quite a few names being applied to these hard-fighting fish. Apart from bluefish, they are known as "choppers" (because of their wicked teeth) and just plain "blues," in our area. Elsewhere throughout the world, bluefish are known variously as taylors, elf and rock salmon.

I strongly doubt you will ever hear any of these names used in the New York area. Icthyologists know the bluefish as **Pomatomus saltatrix.** Most of the names in use in our area serve to differentiate between size classes. "Snappers," of course, are baby first-year blues caught in the bays that range from four to ten inches and are perennial favorites of kids, both young and old. "Snapper blues" is a more indistinct term which is applied both to large snappers (10 inches or so) and to two-year-old blues in the one to two-and-a-half pound class that frequent both the bays and the ocean. "Cocktail blues" is another term used for blues of similar size. Further adding to the confusion is the term "harbor blues," which (you guessed it!) also describes blues in the 1-2½ lb. bracket, although some use this term to include blues in the three to four pound class. The curious thing here is that while there are several terms applied to denote small blues, and various terms for extra-large blues, there are no special names to set apart your average-size fish in the four to ten pound class, which constitute the bulk of the catch. Going to the opposite end of the spectrum, "slammer," "gorilla," "alligator," and "gorillagator," are all names that are applied to giant blues in the 12 to 15 lb. class and up. The last name mentioned apparently originated at Montauk, but "gorillagator" sounds like something an advertising agency dreamed up, which is to say ridiculous!

Weakfish, known to scientists as **Cynoscion regalis**, are known also as yellowfins, goldies, sea trout, gray trout and squeteague or squet. Weakfish, or its variants "weaks" and "weakies," are by far the most popular names, especially in our region. However, you may hear squeteague, an Indian name, up in New England, and gray trout down south, especially in the Chesapeake Bay region. "Sea trout" is what weaks are most often called in fish stores and seafood restaurants. Few serious anglers use this confusing name, for although the weakfish may look like a sort of seagoing version of the freshwater trout, rest assured that it is in no way related to them, apart from both creatures being fish. The weakfish, icthyologically speaking, is a member of the croaker family of fish, and thus is a relative of the channel bass, lafayette, kingfish, and various other creatures. Getting back to names, "yellowfin" is a name which is hardly used any more, except for outdoor writers tired of typing "weakfish." "Goldies" is a relatively new name for the gamester which has popped up in the last few years among the local sharpies, but it will take the test of time to see whether this name catches on. I am sure we all know that the name "weakfish" refers to the weak mouth structure of this fish. However, while doing research for this article, I came across an interesting theory which suggests another version of this name's origin. According to this source, the early Dutch settlers of New York called the fish "weekvis," and this was later corrupted into "weakfish" by the English settlers of our region. Whether the Dutch "weekvis" means weakfish in English, or refers to something else, I don't know, since I do not speak Dutch. As far as size/habitat distinctives, small weakfish in the one to three pound class that are found in the bays during the summer months are known as schoolies, while big weaks of 10 lbs. or better are known as tiderunners.

The ever-popular striped bass is known as either **Roccus saxatilis** or **Morone saxatilis** depending on which scientific reference one consults. This is a strange situation when one considers that the scientific community, if anyone, can be counted on to tag **one** and only **one** name on a species of fish. The striper is known as "rock" or "rockfish" in the Del-MarVa region (Chesapeake Bay area) and is also referred to as "lineside," but "striped bass," "striper" or "bass," is what most anglers call the fish. The kind of stripers we all dream of catching, those elusive 30 to 60 lb. lunkers, are known as "cows." Besides the size factor, the term also refers to the fact that stripers of these dimensions are usually females. Bass in the 13 to 19 pound class are naturally referred to as "teen" bass, while those in the, say 3 to 10 or 12 lb. class, are known as schoolies. Since there is a 16" legal length limit on bass in effect in New York State waters, fish falling under the limit are naturally referred to as "shorts."

Now that we have covered the "big three" inshore game fish, let's take a look at the pelagic, or strictly open sea gamesters, a category that includes those three denizens of the deep—the white shark and the swordfish. However, before I proceed, I would like to clarify one point. Previously I included the bluefish in the "inshore game fish" category, and in the next couple of paragraphs I will include the false albacore and common bonito in the pelagic, or ocean going fish category. Some may take exception to either classification, claiming that although blues are taken inshore, they are basically an offshore species, and vice-versa, while false albacore and bonito are found offshore, they can be taken inshore; sometimes, though rarely, even in the surf, and thus should not be relegated to the strictly pelagic category. While those who may feel this way possibly have a point. I have to draw an arbitrary line somewhere, and thus I have decided to include these fish in those categories. Getting back to the big game fish, in most cases, the offshore fish are pretty much best known by one name among anglers in our region, and elsewhere. This is most likely due to the fact that few anglers fish for them in comparison to the more accessible species. Therefore, multitudes of anglers have not, fortunately so, had the opportunity to stick numerous colloquial names on the offshore monsters, but there are exceptions, most notably some of the tuna, the false alabacore, and the sharks.

The white marlin (**Tetrapturus abbidus**) and the blue marlin (**Makaira nigrieans**) are exclusively known as such hereabouts, and are the only two marlins of the four species of marlin existing that are found in our

waters. That majestic loner, the swordfish (**Xiphias gladius**) is best known as such, although "broadbill" is a common enough name for the fish also. There are no size/habitat names used to describe our billfishes to my knowledge. Taking a look at the sharks, "Jaws," the great white shark (**Carchardon carcharias**) is mostly known as such or by variants of the above, such as "great white" or "white shark." A few may term the monster "man-eater," but few anglers call him by the latter name. In Australia and South Africa, he may also be known as "white pointer" or "white death." Although the only great whites I have ever seen were on the Silver Screen, I am sure that one look at this creature at sea would forever preclude any possibility of misidentification. The tiger shark (**Galeo cerdo covieri**) is what this other monster is known as to all. A seldom-used name for the tiger is leopard shark. Although there are quite a few names for the thresher shark, both Latin and common, he is known best by this name, and the others are not worth mentioning, as they would only serve to confuse. Worldwide, the hard-fighting, acrobatic, mako shark (**Isurus oxyrinchus**) may be known as "short fin mako," "mackerel shark," and bonito shark, but practically all local anglers call him mako and one should leave well enough alone and refer to him solely by that name. The rare porbeagle shark (**Lamna nasus**) is also known throughout the world by a multitude of names which you will most likely never hear, so we will stick to porbeagle. The hammerhead shark (**Sphyrna spp.**) has a few names, mostly variations of hammerhead, but again, as in the case of most of our sharks, he is usually called just plain old hammerhead. The plentiful blue shark, the most common shark found in Long Island waters, known scientifically as **Prionace glauca**, is best known as blue shark, although—and this is getting repetitious—he may be known elsewhere as "blue whale," "great blue shark," or "bluedog," mostly Australian names which you can bet you will never hear locally. The dusky and brown sharks, are universally known by these names in our area. Although (guess what?) they are known by other obscure terms which aren't worth mentioning.

In an attempt to simplify matters, I have listed the eight species of sharks which are the most popular and attempted to stick with one best known name for each of them. If you are really interested in studying and identifying all the species of sharks present in our waters, I would suggest you get yourself a copy of **Anglers' Guide to Sharks of the Northeastern United States; Maine to Chesapeake Bay**, which is published by the American Littoral Society and written by renowned shark expert Jack Casey. You should be able to obtain a copy by writing to the American Littoral Society, Highlands, New Jersey 07732.

Now let's take a look at the tunas. The yellowfin tuna is what most fishermen call this fish. Scientifically, he is known as **Thunnus albacares** and down South he may be known as "allison tuna." The bigeye tuna (**Thunnus obesus**) is the only name that this tuna is known by. Be aware that the yellowfin and the bigeye are pretty similar in appearance, and may be hard to identify. In fact, one may run into this problem with many members of the tuna tribe, as even icthyologists have had problems classifying them. The albacore (**Thunnus alalongo**) is known also as the longfin tuna, but is usually referred to as the "true albacore" in our area to distinguish it from the false albacore (**Euthynnus alletteratus**), best known as albacore to local anglers, which is also known as little tunny to the IGFA and little tuna and green bonito to others. To avoid confusion, and believe me, there can be a lot with these two species, stick with "true albacore" for the longfin albacore found way offshore, and reserve "albacore" for the false albacore, since that name, though a misnomer, is what most local anglers call the latter fish. Bonito (**Sarda sarda**) is the best known local name for this little speedster, but he may also be called Atlantic bonito, common bonito and common Atlantic bonito, though few anglers use these names. Sticking to bonito should do just fine. Keep in mind that there is a similar fish, properly known as the oceanic bonito (**Katsuwonus pelamis**) that is best known locally as "skipjack." However, he may be referred to, besides oceanic bonito, as Arctic bonito, watermelon, or skipjack tuna. These names, though rare, could lead to confusion with the bonito (**Sarda sarda**).

Last, but certainly not least, we come to my favorite fish, the bluefin tuna, known as **Thunnus thynnus** to the lab boys. The bluefin is also known as giant tunny or horse mackerel, but fortunately these terms are becoming obscure. The bluefin is probably the only big game fish which has any size distinctives applied to him by anglers. Locally, small tuna in the 10 to 25 pound range are known as "footballs" since the blimp-like, tapered shape of their bodies at this stage of their growth does indeed resemble an animated football. Bluefin tuna of this size are also known as schoolies, though this term can be extended to include fish in the 50 to 100 pound category. Some even go as far as to call fish in the 100 pound plus area "schoolies," which is really pushing the schoolie classification. "Giant tuna" are generally considered to be fish of 500 pounds or better. Historically, the intermediate size tuna in the 200 to 400 pound range have had no specific name attached to them, but in recent years the term "mini-giant" has gained popularity. Whether or not this term survives the test of time and really catches on, remains to be seen.

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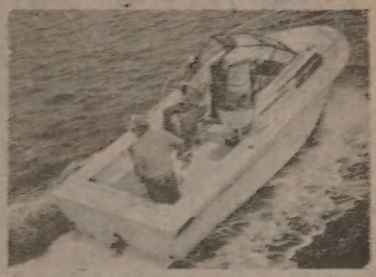

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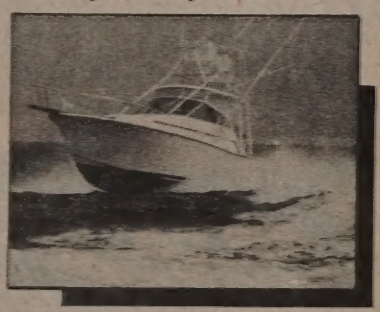

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BY FRED GUARDINEER

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3. WILD DUCKS LAND WITH THE WIND ☐ AGAINST IT ☐

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1 - 35 MPH. 2 - INSERTING A DEVICE IN THE MAGAZINE TO LIMIT ITS CAPACITY. 3 - AGAINST. 4 - TRUE. A 1979 N.Y. STATE COUNT SHOWED SPORTFISHERMEN CAUGHT 775,416 LBS., COMMERCIAL 535,079 LBS. 5 - (A) GAFF-TOPSAIL CATFISH. (B) CHANNEL CATFISH (C) YELLOW BULLHEAD. 6 - THE TURKEY'S NAME IS ATTRIBUTED TO COLUMBUS WHO THOUGHT HE HAD REACHED INDIA AND THAT THE BIG FAN TAILED BIRD WAS A PEACOCK. HE NAMED IT *TURKA*, THE ASIATIC INDIAN WORD FOR PEACOCK.

BARE BOTTOM COD

by Dr. Einar F. Grell

Most of the codfishing on Long Island's south shore takes place over the open bottom where some effort is required to put fish under your boat.

Excluding wrecks where cod can be found throughout the year, South Shore cod can be found over any piece of open bottom between 40 and 125 feet of water. The best method is to employ a depth recorder and look for ridges and holes on open bottom. Spend a little time observing your recorder before you set your anchor. I have found that the more rugged and ragged my bottom recordings are, the better the codfishing has been. Look for markings of fish in holes and on the sides of downward folds on the ridges. Whether these markings are cod or dogfish will be rapidly determined when your baited hooks strike the bottom.

Along most of the South Shore, the bottom very gradually becomes deeper as you progress on a southerly course. In some areas, such as S.E. of Fire Island Inlet in depths between 65 and 100 feet, the bottom is more or less divided into three depressions or ridges which run parallel to shore. Locals refer to these ridges and depressions as the "Fingers" or "dropoffs." Try to fish in these depressions or holes. Even the sides of these depressions will produce fish. On one day you will catch fish in the 70 ft. depression. On another day you will catch fish in the 80 ft. depression. Some days you will catch fish from the 90 ft. hole. Any move that you make should be focused upon these holes for maximum catch. Allow yourself a minimum of at least two stops or moves if you are not successful in catching cod over a 2½ hour period of time. Be patient. Chum heavily at the outset; at least a half bushel of crushed clams beneath your boat. Oftentimes you will catch several cod immediately and then nothing, only to find later that you will catch several more. If you have this kind of luck within a two and a half period, it is wise to remain where you are. Remember, you are not fishing off Newfoundland where there are thousands of cod below you. At best, in this area you will probably have no more than a couple of dozen below you. The big decision you will have to make is whether to remain at a given spot or move to another location. If you are catching fish, you really have no decision to make. A critical factor in decision making involves the amount of clams you have brought along. Never go without at least two bushels; three bushels is the right amount. Clam consumption probably breaks down into two bushels for chum and one bushel for bait on most trips unless the dogfish are thick.

Babylon Tuna Club member Fred Kammerer shows a brace of nice cod taken on open bottom in November.

My rule of thumb. If I catch two or three cod within a two and a half hour period, I stay at the same spot. If I catch only one I move. The most important factor here is that you chum heavily at the outset within the limits of one bushel and the time period. Give your clams the opportunity to work and see what happens. Fish each location with gusto and "give it a good shot." If nothing happens, move. Do not go codfishing with one bushel of clams and expect good results. You need a greater commitment to codfishing than a one bushel donation. The most important point to remember is that you are going to establish beneath your boat a little reef of crushed clams. Two or three clams do not make up a reef. You want to attract crabs and cod. Empty shells without meat on them when dumped, for the most part, are worthless. Watch your purchases of skimmer clams. Are they "shelled down?" (All shells and very little meat.)

On super days, I have taken 40 cod in these depressions or holes with the best catches coming when bottom water temperatures were in the mid-40s. Mid-50s are dogfish breeding temperatures and there is nothing you can do about dogfish problems except to stay home until the bottom temperatures drop. When you can't stick your hands into the ocean, you have arrived at prime codfishing time. If you stick your hands into the ocean to warm them, you have dogfish season. Unfortunately, off the South Shore, we get temperatures in November and December which are conducive to dogfish spawning at the same time the gradual cooling of waters brings in the first schools of cod. In this merging season, cod are present but just don't get to the clam

(Continued on next page.)

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bait fast enough.

In the tackle department, I employ two types of rods. Short five foot semi-stiff trolling rods which I fish close to the boat and long, seven-and-a-half footers for fishing away from my boat. The trolling rods are classified as 30 lb. rods, while the long, softer rods are 20 lb. class blanks. These rods are "dead sticked" from strategically located pole holers on my boat. Use of long and short rods keeps my terminal tackle from tangling. I do use multiple rods and do "deadstick" at the same time holding into one rod. For the few times each fall that I am lucky enough to have favorable weather conditions for codfishing, I do pull all the stops with my "dead-sticking" techniques. The only exception to fishing more than one rod is when I run into many dogfish. Needless to say, one hooked dogfish will produce havoc on multiple codfish rigs that are deadsticked.

When dogfish hit reel them in as fast as possible to minimize tangles. Please do not disembowel them, chop them up into little pieces, stab them viciously and spray blood and guts all over the ocean. You will not get rid of them in this manner. All you will do is dull your knife and tire yourself out. When you have gotten through the dogfish problem and things appear to be settling down, you can go back to fishing with more than one rod. Let your patience in undoing tangles be your guide, remembering always if you spend all of your time undoing tangles are you fishing and do you have any baited hooks in the water? To a degree you will always have dogfish in this area and it is not uncommon before you catch cod to catch several dogfish. Matter of fact, it can sometimes be a good sign since dogfish also eat small crabs and codfish also eat crabs. Remember that dogfish are part of the ecology of the codfish season. Don't be too hard on them. Remember that a majority of them you catch will be pregnant females. Matter of fact, dogfish are eaten as grayfish in Britain and Scandinavian countries. Maybe you should look up a dogfish recipe and try one for dinner.

Reel-wise, I have found the Penn #500 to be most appropriate for cod. It has a rapid retrieve, can quickly dispense with dogfish and handle any codfish that you will catch in these waters. For very deep codfishing on offshore wrecks, a Penn 4/0 probably is more suitable. Forty pound test line spooled on the reels mentioned is very adequate.

When rigging for cod, use the old-fashioned deep sea rig and eliminate bought rigs which tend to have all types of "gingerbread" (beads, colored plastic, etc.). Learn how to make a drop loop in your main line to which you will attach an 18 to 20 inch, 40 or 50 pound test leader to a snelled hook. If you do not want to make dropper loops, purchase three-way swivels or Quick Rigs available at any tackle shop. Your first hook on the leader should be about two feet above your sinker. The second hook should be on a similar leader about two feet above the lower hook. You may wish to fish for other species with your top hook. If whiting are around, your top hook will be of a smaller size than the bottom hook. Species will determine size of hook. Hooks which I employ are of the 5/0, 6/0 and 7/0 regular shanked Sproats made by Mustad. These hooks have a nearly round bend with a straight point. Most of my codfishing is done with regular 5/0 Sproats. The smaller hook has the advantage of more natural action in the water when baited, stays away from the main line and doesn't tend to foul as often. Hook wrapped terminal tackle does not catch cod. Heavier hooks tend to foul frequently. Sproat hooks honed to needle sharpness are what you want at the end of your tackle. Do not assume newly bought hooks are sharp. For the most part they are not. Remember that a cod has a cavernous mouth. Sproat hooks have a wide angle of penetration. Buy yourself a honing stone and sharpen your hooks before you leave the dock. Many a battle and fish is lost owing to dull hooks. In "deadsticking" with a soft tip, it is the sharpness of the hook which enables this rod to catch cod. Oftentimes you will catch cod which leisurely swallow your bait and seem to fall asleep without even tugging on your line. They are already caught. Other times you will catch those frisky cod who impulsively pounce upon your bait. A majority of my cod actually catch themselves with super sharp hooks making the difference.

When it comes to bait, purchase fresh skimmer clams. After opening them, clams used for chum are placed in paper bags that are weighted and sent to the bottom. Make sure that you are fishing over your chummed clams on the bottom. Do not chum before you're sure your anchor is holding. Impale your clams on the hook just before the barb and let them dangle a bit. Once your bait strikes the bottom (weighted down with an 8 or 10 ounce sinker), allow enough slack in your line to compensate for the up and down movement of your boat. Do not constantly jerk your line and keep moving your bait. There is nothing that will spook codfish more than to constantly keep jerking the bait in front of their eyes. If you are a neurotic and have jumpy hands you will be far more successful if you put your rod in a rod holder and allow the boat to fish for you. This is one of the advantages of "deadsticking."

One of my most successful chum baskets is that made up of the inside of a washing machine (the spinner part). I place my broken clams in such (could also be a frozen gallon of clam bellies) and send the entire contraption to the bottom weighted with lead sash weights or a small anchor. This assures that the chum will be under my boat. I do not strike clams with baseball bats, scattering expensive chum to the winds. This procedure

probably chums up cod about 100 feet behind your boat. Once my washing machine chummer strikes bottom I flip it over with a trip line. If it has frozen clam bellies inside I obviously leave the contraption on the bottom and try not to catch it with my codfish rigs.

When codfish begin to nibble do not be in too great a hurry to set the hook. Let them have plenty of time to swallow your bait. If the fish wants to take out line, allow him to do so. Also, when your fish is brought to the surface have a gaff ready. It is amazing how many codfish are lost at the surface when the hook pulls out. I can think of one occasion when my buddy "Crazy Jack" bear-hugged and stuck his hands into the mouth of a 45 pound cod that had spit the hook alongside my 16 ft. Whaler which luckily, had low freeboard.

Most important, when using 30 or 40 lb. test line make sure that you constantly check your line for line cuts and abrasions, especially if you have preliminary battles with dogfish.

Certain conditions put the odds in your favor for this fishing. When we have a high pressure system present, the fishing is usually good. Winds out of the west, northwest and north characterize a high pressure system. When the wind is out of the east, northeast or southeast, we have a low pressure system and for the most part, fishing is poor. Unfortunately when these high pressure systems occur, we often have a certain amount of wind to contend with and this presents us with the problem of "Should I go fishing or should I stay at home?" The answer to this question depends upon such factors as the size of your boat, the degree of insanity you posses, the quality of your survival suit, wind direction, wind speed and wave size. When the wind is out of the north or northwest, you can fish in the relative lee of the beach. You need not go far offshore to catch cod. Remember that it is quite easy to sail downwind, but when you turn around and get ready to come back you could find yourself bucking a 25 knot headwind out of the northwest. What is favorable weather between the hours of 8AM and 10AM can turn out to be a horror by high noon. The watchword is caution in November and December. Also do not plan on running the South Shore inlets in the dark. This is a risky and foolish practice. My rule of thumb is to break these inlets at daybreak. The sun is just coming up and a better summation of what is happening weatherwise and wave-wise can be drawn. Dress warm and travel in the company of at least another boat just in case the unforeseen occurs. Remember that the season is almost winter and there are greater risks than those encountered while blue-fishing in August.

Bring along an oversized anchor with plenty of line, a working radio and enough clams to chum effectively. Head for open bottom and have fun.

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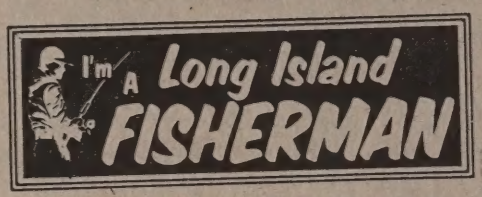

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East End Report

by Stu Miller

MONTAUK

Striped bass catches seemed to dominate Montauk's catches this week as evidenced by the report from Capt. Mike Potts of the charter boat **Blue Fin IV**. Monday's charter for the Siter group of Pa. on an all day trip amassed a total of 62 stripers and the fish were left biting at noon. They were caught 4 and 5 at a pass with 2 fish hitting 34 lbs. each. Most ran 10 to 15 lbs. Umbrellas accounted for most of the fish but some were jigged. On Tuesday morning the Andreav group scored with 12 bass and several bluefish. On the afternoon trip, friends Michelle Stone, Michelle Rodding (caught a 38 lber.), Brian Preiss, George Sterling (caught a 19 lb. blue and two 10 lb. bass on one umbrella rig), all from Gurney's Inn, totalled 12 bass and some blues. Thursday's morning trip for the Daily group hoisted 35 bass and 20, 15 lb. bluefish. Two of the bass were in the 30s, two in the 20s and most of the

Tony Vaccaro, Jr. stands beside the giant tuna he whipped at Montauk's Butterfish Hole aboard the Armadillo. The 10-year-old weighs only 64 lbs. VS the bluefin's 230 lbs. His dad is a member of the South Shore Marlin and Tuna Club. Photo courtesy of Star Island Yacht Club.

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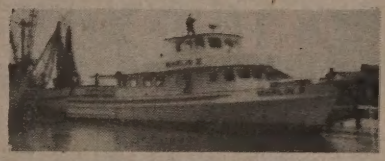

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remainder ran 10-15 lbs. Sunday after the storm the Dent party, Troy, NY boated 14 stripers, two over 30 lbs., two in the 20s and 30 jumbo blues. The catching areas varied from day to day. The skipper expects the stripers to be around at least another week and a half as the water remains loaded with bait. Mike is also quickly filling up with spring reservations on cod and pollack.

Aboard Capt. Phil Lewis' charter boat **Adios** bass fishing remains good with Sunday's morning trip for Victor Castanaguay, Lindenhurst, scoring with 20 stripers up to 48 lbs. and two more over 30 lbs. on umbrellas. Wednesday's trip for Bill Dahl of Cloister, NJ resulted in 20 bass landing on the deck, two of which went over 30 lbs. Thursday saw 8 stripers taken, also on umbrellas, while Friday's trip with the bad weather saw the Rivera group take 4 stripers and plenty of big Cartwright blues. Since the bass fishing has been so good, Phil will continue sailing through this Sunday and he still has Thursday through Sunday open and available.

The **Viking Fleet** has been picking away all week and weekend on cod, blacks and a few large porgies. While the fishing has been on the slow side this past week the skipper expects a cold water infusion to perk things up.

SOUTH FORK

Aboard the **Sag Harbor** head boat **Wilhelric II** skipper Artie Latch called to advise that the blackfishing remains excellent. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday saw the best fishing of the week with fares only having to fish three hours each day for them to have as many blacks as they wanted. There were so many fish that the boat was in early each day with everyone quite happy. Ten pound fish were nowhere's in the running for the daily pools with 11-14 lbers. grabbing the prize money each day. Good blackfishermen have been getting anywhere from 20-40 per trip. The last two sailings of the season will be this Saturday and Sunday. Artie said the tide will be perfect this weekend, flooding all day and not strong. He guarantees fish.

To the west in **Southampton, Speck's Bait and Tackle** tells of scattered flounder catches during the week at Basket, Heady Creek, Noyac Bay and Cedar Beach, fish going 3/4 lbs. and up. Small scattered blackfish in the Shinnecock Canal and at Gardiner's.

South Shore Report

by Fred Golofaro

Fishing reports continue to decline as wind and cold have become a big part of the Long Island fishing scene. We will continue to do the best we can in keeping track of what action there is despite the scant reports.

Flounder fishing in **Moriches Bay** has held up well although not many anglers seem to be taking advantage of the action. At **Seatuck Cove Fishing Station** in **Eastport**, Jeff told of some good score being made in the Buoy 41 area by the few boats out fishing. One skiff returned on Sunday with 60 flounder averaging 1-1½ pounds. They used mussels and chummed heavily with mussel chum. During the week, Tony Errico singlehandedly put 30 nice flatties away. Fishing in Seatuck Cove, just east of Haven's Point.

Gary Grunseich of **Silly Lilly Fishing Station** in **East Moriches** also spoke of a good supply of flounder but few anglers. Fish averaging 1-1½ pounds with some up to 2½ pounds have been hitting on both tides with heavy mussel or clam chum being the key. On Thursday, Fred Ott and Tom Getherall took 65 nice flatties. Only a few boats fished on Sunday but each managed between 30 and 60 fish a piece. Fishing has been between Haven's Point and Buoys 41-42. Gary reminded that the station will remain open every day until November 28th.

11 year old Robby Amoroso of Ronkonkoma capped off his season aboard the family boat Bubbles in high fashion. The youngster put away his first striper ever, a 10½ pounder while with his Dad after trailering the their boat to Eaton's Neck. Dave Canale of **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** who reported this, knew that bass fishing has been holding up well at Eaton's for fish in the 5-12 pound range for those who have been trailering up to the north shore. Dave had no word on the local flounder s scene this week and assumed that all of the wind which riled the bay played a factor. Dave did put a striper of 27.6 pounds on the scale for Rich Torre of Sayville but had no other details on this fish. For freshwater fans, brook trout and brown trout in the 10-14" range continue to be taken from Bubbles and Rattles on worms, salmon eggs and killies. Lots of small trout under the 9" limit are around also so be sure to handle them carefully when returning them to the water.

Ireene Cioffi of **Peppy's Tackle Shop** in **East Islip** weighed a hefty 2¼ pound flounder for 8 year old Jimmy Frieberg on Thursday. It was taken

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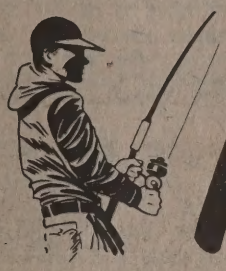

The FISHERMAN

SKILLFUL ANGLING AWARD PROGRAM

Anyone is eligible to enter **The Fisherman Skillful Angling Award Program.** Anglers meeting the required minimum weights for the species listed below will receive a certificate and patch. Fish must be weighed at an **Official Fisherman Weigh Station.**

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Flounder	2
Blackfish	5
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Species	Min. Wt.
Striped Bass	30
Bluefish	15
Weakfish	10
Pollack	20

OFFSHORE BIG GAME

Species	Min. Wt.
Bluefin Tuna	200
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Swordfish	100

FRESHWATER GAME FISH

Species	Min. Wt.
Brown Trout	3
Brook Trout	2
Rainbow Trout	2
Largemouth Bass	4

You must be a paid subscriber to **The Fisherman** at the time fish is caught to be eligible for the **Sport Fishing Award and Release Award Programs.** Contest runs from May 1 through December 15. Entries received after December 31st will be disqualified. An incomplete entry blank may result in disqualification of your catch. The editorial staff of **The Fisherman** reserves the right to award prizes as they see fit. All decisions are final.

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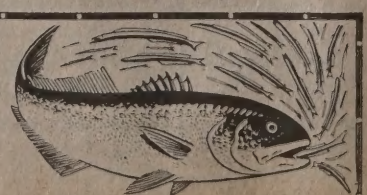

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along with seven other flatties at Heckscher on bloodworms. Also on Thursday, Dr. Edward Meyer, fishing with Jon Nelson, caught his first striped bass and quite a bass it was. The good doctor was casting a Rebel swimmer in Fire Island Inlet when a 44 pound striper decided to make a meal of the plug. Ireene's husband, "Peppy", cashed in on some big blues over the Yankee wreck while aboard the private boat Tail Roper. His largest was a 16¼ pounder.

According to Captain Gordon Roman of the **Captree** open boat **Captree Queen**, Great South Bay flounder fishing has had its ups and downs this past week with the wind being the biggest factor. Friday, despite a strong SW wind, was one of the better days with hi-hook walking off the boat with 17 nice flatties. Red Timmons of Astoria had a 2¼ pound pool fish among his catch of 11 flatties. This trip marked the third time in two weeks that he took the pool with a flounder over the 2 pound mark. Gordon is now switching over to a cod run and will be sailing 6AM daily. See his ad for details.

Plenty of blackfish remain on the Fire Island Ocean Reef if the fishing being enjoyed by fares aboard Capt. Charlie Kennedy's **Captain Joseph II** are any indication. L.I.F. Subscriber, Artie Swart along with his buddies, Chet, Sandy, Joe and Jack fished aboard the Capt. Joseph II on Tuesday and had over 80 blackfish between them, most in the 2-4 pound range. The skipper labelled Sunday as a good day after being blown out on Friday and Saturday. Quite a few big fish were taken including an 11.2 pound pool fish for Bob Pace. There were 5 other tautogs in the 8-9 pound range taken as well on Sunday. All of the action has been on green crabs. Charlie noted that due to an increased demand, he will be switching to cod on Friday, November 19th. Sailing time will be 6AM.

Among the Captree charter boats cashing in on the newly arrived cod was Bob Patafio's **Yankee III**. Bob called to say that they had some pretty decent fishing on Sunday with 10 fares averaging 4-5 cod a piece. Tom Sinclair won the pool with a 37

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pounder and there were also 4 other cod in the 30 pound class taken. The skipper worked some local Fire Island Wrecks and was encouraged by the number of green fish being taken.

Over at **Augie's Bait and Tackle Shop** in **Babylon**, Ski Kochanski knew that a few cod were taken on private boats on Sunday but was not certain as to whether the fish were taken on open bottom or on wrecks. He did know from radio chatter that bluefish continue to be trolled inshore along the beaches and added that one boat had over 30 choppers in the 6-10 pound range on Sunday. Little flounder news this weekend due to the bay being all churned up from recent winds.

To the west, flounder continue to please those making an effort. According to Lon Wanser of **Wanser's Tackle Shop** in **Seaford**, all of the usual spots are still producing flatties but the tackle man noted that those chumming heavily have the advantage. Worms or dyed clams are good bets in the bait department. Some blues of mixed sizes still being trolled on umbrella rigs in the inlet and outside along the beaches.

Western South Shore Report

by Stu Miller

WEST END BAYS & INLETS

Captain Bob Nagy, currently running the **Aloma II** has been knocking the socks off blackfish when there is any kind of cooperation from the weatherman. An example is Sunday's trip with Danny Chang of Bayside with 15 blacks to 4 lbs. and 3 cod running 15-20 lbs. Kim Young, Mt. Kisco hoisted 2 cod 20-25 lbs. and 12 blacks to 4 lbs. Alex Droby decked two cod to 15 lbs. and 30 blacks while Freeport angler Randy Hassel totalled 18 blacks and 2 cod. Twenty-three blacks to 5½ lbs. was the body count for Bob Briel. Eric Meichsner, of Woodhaven was happy with his 15 blackfish to 6½ lbs. while Jeff Garber totalled 17 blacks to 8 lbs. and a ling.

Aboard Capt. Sy Carlin's charter boat **Blue Fin III**, Thursday's offshore wreck trip for cod was a big success with 55 cod and some sea bass taken. High hook was 12 cod for Tom Pope and another 12 for Jack Dwyer. Pool winner was a 22 lber. lured to the hook by Ronald Perri of New Rochelle. Cod averaged 3-12 lbs.

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Seven-year-old Richard Arote, Jr. shows his first weakfish. The youngster hails from Massapequa. Subscriber photo.

ees had a mixed bag of cod, jumbo porgies to 3 lbs., sea bass to 4lbs. and gorilla blues plus a lot of dogfish.

The **Capt. Lou Fleet** found the flounder fishing affording just a few good days during the week and the other days either weathered out or very slow pickings. Capt. Mike says flounder action will break loose at any time as they feeding on the change of tide and are definitely there in mixed sizes.

Quality size cod was the description used by skipper Al Lindroth of the **Capt. Al**. Big cow cod are being caught on every trip. On Tuesday Eugene Harris of Queens Village had a 38 lber. and Josh Friedman of Great Neck tied him with another 38 lber. Wednesday's pool fish hit 49½ lbs. for Pierre Lahaye. Bruce Rothstein of Brooklyn hoisted a 25 lb. cod. Regular Scotty Hoggan of Queens Village had a 38 lber. and Sam Smoller of Rockville Centre hefted a 36 lber. Thursday's big fish was a 45 lb. cod for Alex Mercado followed by a 37 lber. for Trny of the Bronx. Saturday was a bail job on jumbo Cholera blues. On Sunday, Teehan Thomas, Bensonhurst groaned as he hoisted a 55½ lb. cow cod up from the depths. A mere 50 lber. was also brought up by Lou Tomasetti of the Bronx. Karsten Solenge of Croton on Hudson had to be satisfied with a 37½ lber. There are lots of fish in the 30s. Blues and sea bass were also mixed in each day.

Capt. Jim of the **Super Spray II** had good codfishing all week except for two days of terrible weather. Customers caught cod, sea bass and large porgies all week. Sunday saw 150 cod taken with a lot of 3-5 lbers. Catches were 2 to 3 a man and pool fish have been running 35-40 lbs. each trip. There will be a special half day cod trip Thanksgiving and the boat will be back at the dock by 1:30 PM.

Aboard Capt. Richie's **Starstream II** the codfishing has also been good . On Thursday Woodside Angler Harry Schenkman hoisted a 49 lb. cod while Buddy Miller of Amityville slugged it out with a 29 lb. pollack. High hook of the day was Paul Lipinsky with 18 cod, mixed sizes. On Sunday fares had a good mixed bag of cod, blues, sea bass and porgies with a 25 lb. cod taking the pool.

The first Annual Charvin Open Cod Tournament will be held Nov. 20 (weather date Nov. 21). Entry fee is $100 per boat, with entire fee distributed as 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize money. One prize per boat, rod and reel only. Those interested call Lou Stalker at Lou's Fishing Station, (516) 378-8748.

Over in **Pt. Lookout** Captain Ron of the **Miss Point Lookout** tells of some super shots at the flounder this week and notes the change is very encouraging, with some days high hooks in the 30s. On Thursday's afternoon trip Earl French had 30 flatties. On Saturday's afternoon trip Jim Grubner had 16 flounder and took the pool despite the strong winds. On Saturday Matt French boated 15 flatties. Best areas have been Swift Creek, Point Lookout and off the Coast Guard station on worms. Ron says flounder should take hold imminently as this week was a definite upswing in numbers.

Charter boat **Marie III** on Sunday fished Bob's Fishing Club, Lakeview and on an offshore wreck had excellent sea bass to 4 lbs., porgies to 3 lbs., plus a mess of blacks, blues and a few cod to 15 lbs. The day's last drop was at Cholera and in one hour all hands loaded up on 10-20 lb. blues with high hook on blues being 12 monsters in just that 1 hour period. A slaughter. The skipper has just a few more openings left for Saturday's and Sunday's open cod wreck trip.

The **Commodore** out of **Island Park** on Sunday picked away at flounder with fares averaging 15 fish a man, 3/4 to 1½ lbs. with two hours on either side of the change best. Captain Clem says flounder are still in a spawning state.

Beckmans Tackle in **Lynbrook** says it was an unspectacular week but that flounder were still caught mainly in Reynolds channel on worms and lots of chum and blackfish have been best at the jetties, inlet rocks and offshore wrecks on green crab.

Over at **Long Beach Sports Marina**, some flounder were taken this week off the fire house Sunday with lots of chum necessary, fish mixed sizes. Blacks hot and cold at the AB bridge on fiddlers, greens, and clam. Some

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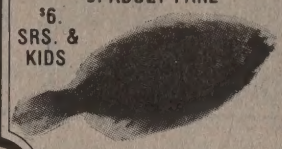

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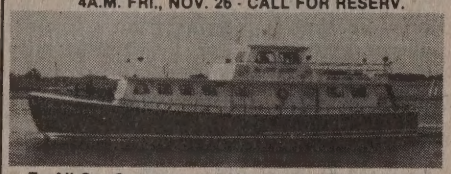

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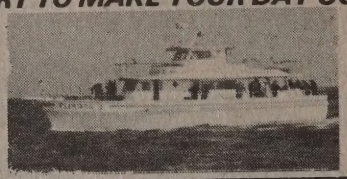

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stripers (small) have been trolled inside Jones and Debs inlets on small umbrellas and some schoolies are still being taken at the Coney Island flats and Tin Can grounds on umbrellas.

Reynolds Reef Fishing Station in **Atlantic Beach** advises the best bet this past week for flounder has been off the Cement Block and at the Cedarhurst Yacht Club creeks. Plenty of blues of the huge variety continue to be trolled in 50 feet of water and some schoolies are also being trolled off Lido on umbrellas.

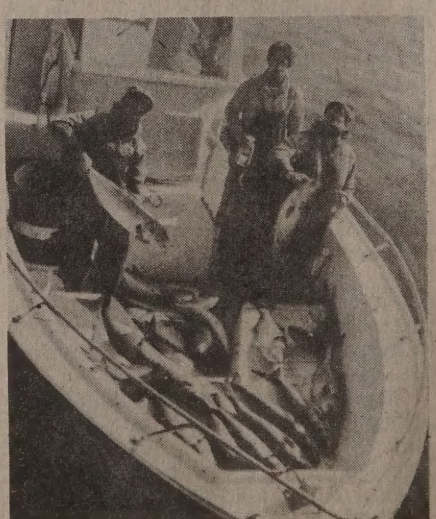
NEW YORK BIGHT

Skippy's Bait and Tackle in **East Rockaway** says the flounder have been few this week but extraordinarily large in size with many hooks being straightened. Best has been Woodmere Bay, Duck Point and the flats just to the west thereof. There are loads and loads of crabs around and the water is still warm. Blackfish hav been best on the outside on green crabs and some stripers are being taken at the bridges on white bucktails and small umbrellas.

Over in **Sheepshead Bay** we hear from Capt. Fred Ardlino of the **Amberjack V** that the last offshore cod wreck trip of the year will be on Nov. 27th. See ad for details.

The **Zephyr** on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday's trip enjoyed excellent blackfishing at 17 Fathoms with fish 2-6 lbs. to the tune of 10-60 a man. More ling are now being taken along with the blackfish. Thirty ling and 1 cod was the by-catch on Sunday. A few gorilla blues were also taken and a lot were lost as well. Blackfishing is still very strong and the boat will probably be blackfishing right through Christmas.

In **Staten Island** Lenny at **Santo's Sport Shop** says best flounder catches have been at Stapleton Piers 16 and 17 along with some tommy cod and blackfish on worms and clam. Flounder also at Penny Beach along with some school stripers as well taking bait. The South Beach storm sewers have been another decent flounder and striped bass catching area this week, with Great Kills Harbor another spot that has been producing flatties.



Robert Alcott, Van Namer, "Mr. Bill" and Charlie Guttilla put away 34 blues over 14 lbs. on an Oct. 23 trip to the Farms. Fishing was done on Charlie's Jamaica Bay moored boat, The Pax. Subscriber photo.

North Shore Report

by Marty Garrell

Except for deep water and large boats, blackfish action has disappeared from most reports. An excellent run of school bass to the west developed prior to the passage of Friday's cold front. Though weekend reports were only spotty because of gale force winds on Saturday, hopes are that the run of stripers will continue with some larger fish showing. Good flounder fishing is the rule.

WESTERN SOUND

John's Gun & Tackle in New Rochelle reported lots of bass in 2 to 12 lb. sizes for trollers and jig fishermen. White and yellow tubes were pulling catches to 30 fish off Prospect and Execution Light.

Shore anglers off Hudson Park and Mamaroneck had some nice flounder, while boat fishermen off Bayville, Matinecock, and Fort Slocum were doing even better.

Jack's Bait & Tackle on City Island felt that the blackfish were now in deep 25'-35' depths while flounder and tomcod were showing in Eastchester Bay. Jack Rumpf said that the station will be open for

another 2 or 3 weeks.

Dave Watt at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** saw 2 bass averaging 24" behind every rock from City Island to Port Washington. Small tins with bucktails, small poppers, and trolled worms were all effective. Though the best action occurs in the mornings, overcast days can produce action throughout. Flounder fishing is excellent off Pryble, in Dosoris Pond, and around Sandy Beach.

City Island boats continue to do well on Connecticut blackfish. **The Apache** enjoyed a very good Sunday with high hooks around 12 or more and low hooks around 5 per fare. Fish are good sized with a number of 7-8 lb. bulldogs. Dom Cerbone will be sailing through November 28.

Joe Fink may be switching the **Lady Lil III** to weekends only but he's still doing very well on tautog off Stanford. Eight ounces of lead is the norm in 50' of water for fish all the way to the 6-10 lb. class. High hooks can get to the upper teens or beyond. Fink will be sailing through the 28th of the month.

Frank Ackley and his mate Marco Valzano thank customers on the **Tarpon** from Glen Cove for a fine maiden year. The boat may have had its last charter of the season on Sunday with Bob Blackburn. The crew jigged 14 stripers to 10 lbs. off Lloyds on 2-4 oz. AVAs.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

Bob Cedar at **Huntington Prop** was looking at dozens of bass to 14 lbs. taken by jig fishermen and umbrella trollers in the Triangle between Buoy 13 and the Obstruction Buoy. Lloyd's Buoy 15 was worth a shot too, observed Ronnie Ferraro at **Ronnie's,** who measured last week's water temperature at 53° F. George Valentine at **4 Winds** weighed the week's largest bass, a 19 lb. 3 oz. fish jigged by Billy Collins. Six arm umbrellas packing spinners, black and red or white tubes and an occasional green tube are effective, while AVA 17's, 007's, Tiger Striped jigs in 2 oz. and Tri-Fins were the hottest lures. Neither droppers nor tails are advised. There is some casting for bass off Asharoken and flounder fishermen continue to do well in harbors like Lloyd's and Huntington. Most flatties run to 3/4 lb., but an occasional fish over 1 lb. was mentioned. On Tuesday, Peter Burns and Frank Orlando managed 88 stripers to 12 lbs. on umbrellas.

Tom Bowman at **Bowman's** in Northport weighed a 10 lb. bass and a 13 lb. blue from one catch in the Triangle on Saturday. The total haul for that boat was 35. Bowman advises anglers to try places where creeks enter the Sound—like Crab Meadow—as well as the Lilco discharges. Flounder are in solid off the Town Docks.

Ralph's in Mount Sinai was packing up for the season on Saturday, but Dick Brown expects to keep **Dick's Sporting Goods** open daily except for the first three days of the deer season. Brown said that jigging and casting were successful off Miller Place and around Buoy 11. Stripers can be found all the way from Northville to Oldfield. Flounders are still strong but bait is now scarce.

Packy Collins said that the **Packy IV** spent most of the week trolling umbrellas but switched to diamonds on Sunday and jigged 57 stripers. Eaton's fish were bigger, with smaller bass at Lloyd's. Sunday's sizes dropped into the 3-6 lb. range, whereas a number of 8-20 lb. fish had been showing earlier in the week. With the bare keepers on 18" still absent from the scene, Collins is betting on another couple of weeks of strong action and will be taking some private charters during the period. Incidentally, Collins noted that there were still marauding packs of blues from 10 to 18 lbs. scattered in the area.

NORTH FORK

Saturday morning seemed to be very good before the wind hauled around to the north, reported **Warren's** in Aquebogue. One blue off the beach weighed 14 lbs., while bass tend to be barely legal schoolies. Tins with red or white tubes are preferred, and Hopkins score well. Earlier in the week, there were still reports of flounder off Orient and blackfish off the Northville Pipe. Indian Island flounder fishing has declined.

The **Port of Egypt** in Southold saw one catch of flounder on Saturday off East Marion, but, except for flattie die-hards, there was little else. Nobody was out on the Sound, and the last boats were pulled on Sunday.

Art White will be concluding regular hours at the **A.P. White Bait Shop** in **Greenport** now. Bass from the Gut are being trolled with bucktails and with umbrellas, but beach fishing has also been quite good in the morning. Anna Rainis said that the **Blue Albatross** will be sailing until December 1 as an open boat on an everyday basis. Despite the swift tides, Sunday's blackfish catch was very good with some large fish. Pool winners generally run 9-10 lbs., but this week's best was the 12 lb. 1 oz. giant.

Dave Brennan told us that both the **Peconic Star** and the **Brand X** will be wrapping it up for the season. Dave himself finished the year by dropping a line for one shot in 105' of water off Fisher's Island and hauling a 10 lb. bulldog blackfish aboard. Deep water blackfish action continued to be torrid through season's end, said Brennan.

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Surf Report

by Fred Golofaro

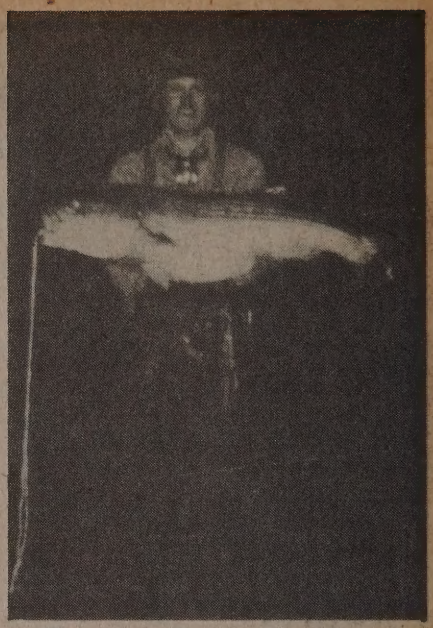
While north shore surf news was scant with the exception of Horton's Point, south shore casters continued to cash in on the best fall run of blues along the ocean beaches in quite a few years. Focal point of the action seems to be centered along the National Seashore stretch of beach to the west of Smith's Point where both quality and quantity have been the norm for the past few weeks. An occasional big striper has been mixed with the blues to add further appeal to this area. While this stretch of shore has been attracting quite a crowd, the blues are spread along many miles of ocean front with good action also reported from the Hamptons, Robert Moses, and Jones Beach. How much longer the blues will be around at this point is anybody's guess, but the choppers are already stretching the calendar.

Charlie Beckman of **Beckman's Tackle Shop** in **Lynbrook** relayed word of continuing bluefish action at Jones Beach West End 2 and Parking Field #6. In addition to the bluefish, Charlie knew of a 43 lb. striper taken Saturday at West End, as well as a couple of other fish in the teens. Both tins and swimming plugs have been accounting for the blues, as well as the occasional bass.

Robert Moses Parking Fields 4 and 2 continue to contribute their share of big blues. While the best action here was during the week, there were a couple of nice fish picked over the course of the weekend. Dave Canale at **J&R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** checked in an 11 lb. striper for Joe Ciati of East Islip on Tuesday. Joe who just began surfcasting this season, took the striper at Field #4 on an Ava 27 jig. Another significant fish was the 12.4 lb. blue taken at Robert Moses Field 2 by 14-year-old Chris Parker on Friday. It was the youngster's first surf fish ever.

Hayes Thiemann of **The Store** at **Oak Beach** checked in bass of 17 and another in the 30s on Friday morning. Both these fish came from one of the local beaches.

Several members of the Great South Bay Anglers CLub have been beating a steady path to the National Seashore area and doing a good job on big bluefish. Charlie Hollins of Bayport had blues of 13 and 14 lbs. on one cast last Tuesday with one fish gobbling a tin and the other taking a Red Gill dropper. Charlie had numerous fish throughout the week, but one of his better blues was a 17½ lber. taken Sunday morning. Two other club members, Nick Arena and Marty Beer put away 22 blues up to 16 lbs. on Thursday. Blair Moger of West



The West End surf produced this fine 32 lb. striper for Jerry Barkey. It was taken on 5½" floating Rebel just before dawn on 10-31-82. Subscriber photo.

Sayville culled a 27½ lb. striper from amongst the blues on Thursday. The cow was taken on a Red Gill dropper fished ahead of a tin. The action has not been restricted to beach buggy owners either. One walker, Artie Pryor checked in 6 blues to 15½ lbs. at Paul Graniello's **J&J Tackle** in **Patchogue** on Thursday. Paul told of good fishing both Wednesday and Thursday and I knew from several sources that there were also some fine scores made Saturday and Sunday mornings. Paul's contribution to the weigh-in list this week was a 17.12 lber. that he took on Wednesday. Paul added that swimming plugs (Rebels, Redfins and Darters) worked well at midweek prior to all the wind when tins again took over.

Out in **Montauk**, Johnny Kronuch of **Johnny's Tackle Shop** said that wet suiters John and Guy Dietz really did a job from Weakfish rock early in the week. Total for two night's work was 28 stripers up to 37 lbs. John returned alone on Thursday and racked up 10 stripers, including fish of 24, 30, 30 and 35 lbs. Johnny K told of fish showing on the surface from Jones all the way down into Scotts one evenin this week, but added that no one was able to do much with them from the beach. Weekend action as far as John knew was nil.

Up on the north shore, the only news coming this way concerned Horton's Point. Ed Kopack of **Warren's Tackle Shop** in **Aquebogue** told of a good pick of fish here on Friday and Saturday, with small bass and mixed size blues ranging up to 16 lbs. Sunday's action was very slow, according to Ed. Thin red or green tubes fitted on a tin has been the killer here. Popular tins include the Ava jig, Hopkins, Kastmasters and the Pasquale line of tins.

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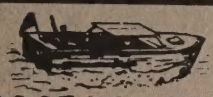

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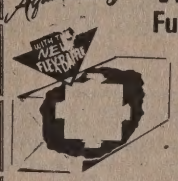
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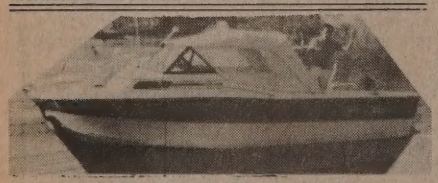

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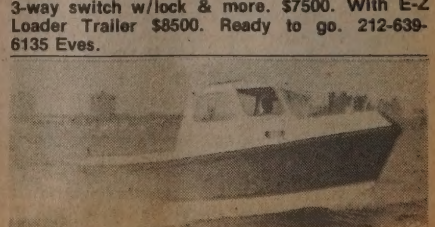

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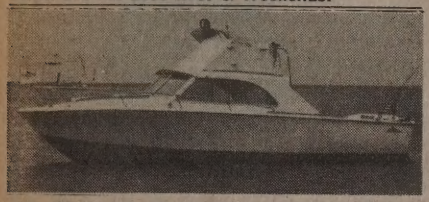

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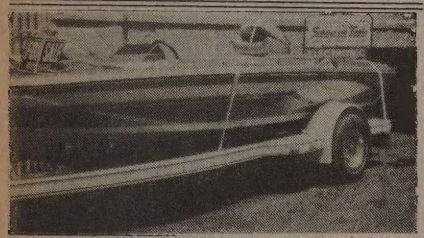

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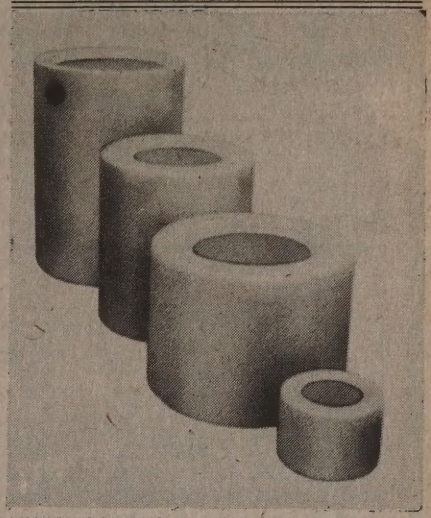

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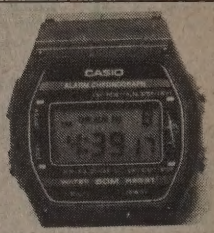

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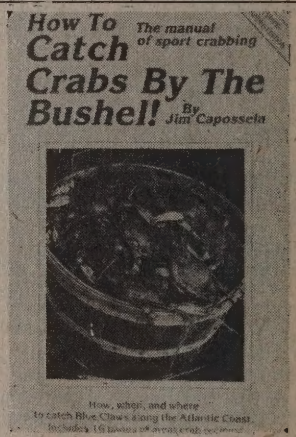

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Successful charter boat, 35 pass. cap.; fully equipped & business for sale. Excl. South Shore location. Replies to: P.O. Box 3587, New Hyde Park, N.Y. 11042.

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High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or **subtract** the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet...–0 50" is listed under "ON SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THUR.	9:10	9:30	10:00	10:25	9:55	10:20	10:40	11:20	12:55	12:40	12:35	12:40	9:10	9:30	11/18
FRI.	9:50	10:10	10:40	11:10	10:35	11:10	11:25	—	1:20	1:10	1:10	1:20	9:50	10:15	11/19
SAT.	10:30	11:00	11:25	11:55	11:15	—	12:10	12:10	1:50	1:45	1:50	2:05	10:35	11:05	11/20
SUN.	11:15	11:45	—	12:10	12:00	12:00	1:00	12:55	2:25	2:30	2:35	2:50	11:25	—	11/21
MON.	—	12:00	12:45	1:05	12:45	12:45	1:55	1:50	3:10	3:15	3:25	3:40	12:00	12:15	11/22
TUE.	12:35	12:55	1:45	2:00	1:35	1:35	2:50	2:50	4:00	4:10	4:15	4:30	12:55	1:10	11/23
WED.	1:35	1:50	2:45	2:55	2:25	2:25	3:45	3:50	4:50	5:05	5:10	5:25	1:50	2:10	11/24
THUR.	2:30	2:50	3:35	3:50	3:20	3:25	4:35	4:45	5:45	6:05	6:00	6:20	2:45	3:05	11/25

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink, R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking zbridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehoboth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Pontunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	–0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	–0 08
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	–0 03
Saugatuck River	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	–0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	–0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rocheele	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburg	+3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	–0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayett Point	+0 12
Pawtucket	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Harbor	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

11/19	6:54	4:37
11/20	6:56	4:36
11/21	6:57	4:35
11/22	6:58	4:34
11/23	7:00	4:34
11/24	7:01	4:33
11/25	7:02	4:32

Moonrise/Moonset

11/19	10:20AM	7:42PM
11/20	11:07AM	8:35PM
11/21	11:49AM	9:32PM
11/22	12:25PM	10:31PM
11/23	12:57PM	11:31PM
11/24	1:26PM	—
11/25	1:53PM	12:33AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr	FULL	2nd Qtr.
11/15	11/23	11/1	11/8

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

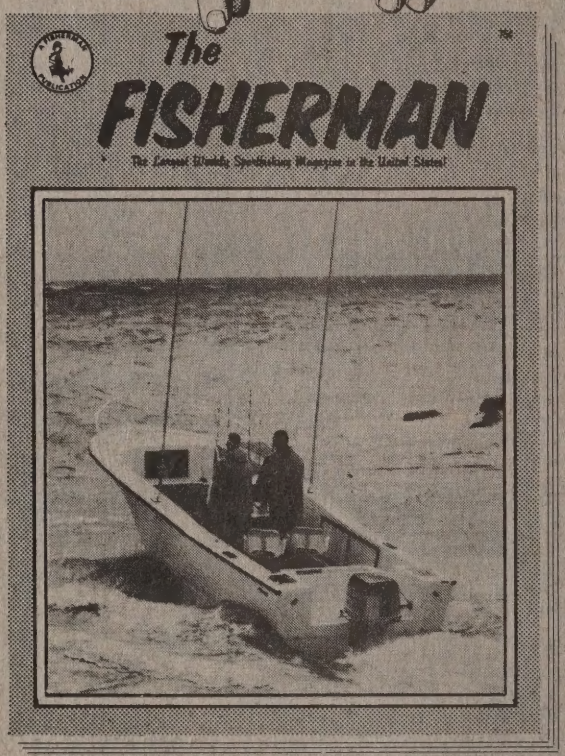
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for this week as printed below have been taken from the original ***KNIGHT SOLUNAR TABLES.*** Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type face.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	6:30	**12:20**	7:00	**12:45**
Fri.	7:25	**1:15**	7:55	**1:40**
Sat.	8:20	**2:10**	8:50	**2:35**
Sun.	9:10	**3:00**	9:40	**3:25**
Mon.	10:00	**3:50**	10:30	**4:15**
Tues.	10:50	**4:40**	11:20	**5:05**
Wed.	11:35	**5:25**	11:55	**5:45**
Thurs.	—	**6:05**	12:15	**6:30**

CATCH THE HEART OF YOUR FAVORITE FISHERMAN THIS CHRISTMAS!



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